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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 14 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND 6 PAGES OF PATHFINDER HIGHER EDUCATION SPECIAL

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Ayush Shetty stuns world no. 4 Jonathan Christie of Indonesia to enter men's singles semifinal of Badminton Asia Championships, P 18

Hyd woman ends life after suitor gives her HIV

A 24-year-old woman died by suicide in Hyderabad on Friday, a month after she was forcibly injected with HIV-infected blood by a man whose marriage proposal she rejected due to his health condition. The accused was HIV-positive since birth. The victim has left behind a suicide note. **P 8**

Guj youth blames attendance shortage on too much junk food

A fourth-year LLB student of Gujarat's Marwadi University, barred from appearing in exams for failing to meet the mandatory 75% attendance, submitted before HC that his prolonged absence from classes was due to his dietary habits that stemmed from overeating pizzas and burgers. TNN

Rape-murder case: SC slams police, hosps

The SC said on Friday mishandling of the rape-murder of a four-year-old girl in Ghaziabad reflected "inhuman, indifferent and insensitive" attitude of police & private hospitals. **P 11**

BSF trooper killed

A BSF constable, Bengal native Mithun Mandal, 34, was killed after being struck by a bullet during an exchange of fire between armed groups in Manipur's Ukhrul district Friday. TNN

Judge resigns year after cash pile found at home

Probe Under Way, Sends Letter To Prez

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New Delhi: Justice Yashwant Varma, who has been in the eye of a storm for more than 13 months since the accidental discovery of wads of burnt notes in his official bungalow in New Delhi, has resigned as a judge of Allahabad high court.

In a letter to President Droupadi Murmu on Friday, Varma said he was resigning "with immediate effect", bringing down the curtains on what had until March 2025 seemed a promising judicial career.

It took eyewitness testimonies of firemen and police officials before the judges inquiry committee headed by SC Justice Aravind Kumar pursuant to a removal motion, to persuade the controversial HC judge to drop his resistance. They had, on the night of March 14-15 last year, responding to a 112 fire emergency, stumbled upon sacks of cash at New Delhi's Tughlaq Road bungalow of Justice Varma, then a Delhi HC judge.

"While I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this missive, it is with deep anguish that I hereby tender my resignation from the office of the judge of Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, with immediate effect," Justice Varma wrote.

▶See FLAP OPP

'POSTERITY'S CALL'

- On the intervening night of March 14 and 15, fire breaks out at Justice Varma's bungalow. Firefighters find **partially burnt cash in storeroom**
- **Judge argues that storeroom was open to all** and it couldn't be his responsibility to track who keeps what
- Justice Varma says he leaves it to posterity to decide if such an obligation rests on the occupant of the premises

Boat with Pjb pilgrims sinks in UP, 10 dead

A boat carrying 37 pilgrims mostly from Punjab's Ludhiana collided with a pontoon bridge and capsized in Yamuna river near Keshighat in Mathura district on Friday, leaving 10 dead, including seven women, and at least five missing. Police said 22 people have been rescued and search operation is on to trace the others, **reports Sudeep Lavania.**

According to local residents, the group of devotees boarded the motorised boat at the iconic Keshighat for a river ride. Shortly after setting off, the boat lost balance, throwing all passengers into the water. **P 5**

Guv flight returns to Mangaluru due to bad weather

An Air India Express flight with Karnataka governor Thawar Chand Gehlot and officials on board returned to Mangaluru International Airport after failing to land in Bengaluru Friday evening due to bad weather at Kempegowda International Airport.

Three other flights were similarly diverted from KIA to Chennai. Sources said the governor's flight departed from Mangaluru at 4.30pm, five minutes early. As the aircraft approached Bengaluru, adverse weather conditions prevented its landing at KIA. TNN

As Vance leaves for Pak, Iran talks tough, sets 2 conditions

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

US vice-president J D Vance is arriving in Pakistan on Saturday morning for what is being billed as a concerted diplomatic push to corral Iran and contain a widening conflict that has not gone according to Washington's script. Vance, who departed for Islamabad on Air Force Two, is tasked with salvaging US gains from a war it has "won" while losing the peace as Tehran has dug in its heels.

Raising the stakes prior to negotiations, Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that blocked Iranian financial assets must be released and that a ceasefire must take hold in Lebanon before the peace talks can proceed in Islamabad.

On eve of his departure, Vance struck a calibrated tone that blended caution with conditional engagement.

▶If Iran negotiates, P 17

SENSEX BULLISH

- Sensex rallies 919 pts (1.2%) Friday, gaining 4,746 pts since Monday morning to **snap 6-week losing streak**
- **Israel casts doubts over Pak's role** as 'neutral arbiter' after defence minister Khawaja Asif's call for **Israel's 'annihilation'** in deleted X post
- **Former Iran foreign minister** Kamal Kharazi, 81, **dies of injuries** suffered in US-Israel strikes on April 1
- **US inflation surges to 3.3%** in March from 0.9% in Feb, biggest rise in nearly 4yrs

Melania denies any relationship with Epstein

US First Lady Melania Trump denied she had any relationship with Jeffrey Epstein and said she wasn't one of his victims, thrusting the Epstein issue back into the spotlight after Trump sought to put it behind him. She denied Epstein introduced her to Trump, saying she had met him at an NY party in 1998. She urged Congress to hold public hearings for Epstein victims, raising the prospect of more public attention on the issue. **P 17**

SC disallows lower DA rate for pensioners

The Supreme Court has held that the state can't discriminate between employees and pensioners in dearness allowance hikes. The court, disapproving Kerala govt's decision to raise DA by 14% for state road transport employees and by 11% for the state corporation's retired employees, said inflation affects both groups alike and having two DA rates is arbitrary and cannot be allowed. **P 11**

Listing waiver for Tata Sons on RBI's 'upper NBFC' tweak?

Reserve Bank of India on Friday proposed a simpler way to identify large non-banking financial companies (NBFC) for stricter regulation, pegging it to assets of over Rs 1 lakh crore, replacing a complex scoring system.

The proposed shift has immediate implications for large financial holding companies. Tata Sons, with a standalone asset size of Rs 1.75 lakh crore as of March 31, 2025, would fall within the proposed threshold. **Page 15**

SP grp chief Mistry pitches for listing

SP group chairman Shapoor Mistry, who represents the single largest minority shareholder in the Tata group, on Friday sought a public listing of Tata Sons as a "necessary" step that would secure and unlock value for stakeholders and boost the income of the trusts. The pitch came after similar calls from two Tata Trusts vice chairmen. **P 15**

Panchayat home to KIA top property-tax grosser

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Bengaluru: Anneshwara gram panchayat, home to Kempegowda International Airport, has emerged as the state's highest property tax collector among gram panchayats in 2025-26, mobilising Rs 15.6 crore.

The dominance of Bengaluru's expanding periphery is stark. All top 10 revenue-generating gram panchayats are in and around the city — eight in Bengaluru Urban district and one each in Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru South.

Together, these 10 panchayats contributed Rs 110 crore, nearly a tenth of the Rs 1,382.6 crore collected from 5,943 gram panchayats statewide by the rural development and panchayat raj department.

▶Doddajala GP, P 4

After acquittal, Col Purohit set to be Brigadier

Indian Army has cleared Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit's promotion to the rank of Brigadier following his acquittal in Malegaon blast case, **reports Surendra Singh**. The decision comes weeks after armed forces tribunal halted his scheduled retirement on March 31, 2026. On July 31, Mumbai NIA court had acquitted (then Lt Col) Purohit and six others in the case. He was arrested in 2008. **P 8**

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AI IMAGE

RESULTS OUT, PLANS FOR FUTURE ON COURSE

By integrating technology-led courses, vocational training, and industry exposure, the state is ensuring that after Class 12 students are better prepared for a rapidly changing job market

Ranita.Ray
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The education system in Karnataka post-Class 12 is changing shape, and the shift is hard to miss. Across colleges and universities, new programmes in artificial intelligence, green technology, and design have picked up in a big way. The aim is to help students keep pace with industry and employment demands that they will face in the market in 2030 and beyond. Much of this is tied to NEP 2020 and state-led skill initiatives, but a more immediate concern is also driving the change. Traditional pathways no longer offer the same certainty of a career they once did.

With the second pre-university course (PUC) results for 2026 out, students and parents are gearing up to choose the right educational institutions for higher studies. The need is clear: courses that are relevant a few years from now.

Educational institutions across the state are responding by moving closer to industry. Classrooms are focusing on lab work, internships, and project-based assignments rather than just textbooks. Educators are evaluating whether students can apply what they learn. There is also a visible push to increase skill-based enrolment. It is a welcome change to notice a growing number of students from smaller towns opting for courses that assure reliable entry into the workforce.

"Jobs that will come up in three to five years from now may not exist today. But a few campuses have been taking steps to visualise and prepare their students who graduate a few years from now, will be industry relevant on the day they start employment," apprises R Janardhan, provice chancellor, Dayananda Sagar University.

TECH COURSES TAKE THE LEAD

Engineering and polytechnic institutions are at the centre of this transition. New diplomas and degrees in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, cloud computing, and robotics have been rolled out over the past year. Students are working on data models, basic cybersecurity systems, IoT applications, and even drone-based use cases. Such changes reflect a practical reality. Older streams continue to produce graduates, but job absorption has slowed down, forcing both institutions and students to reconsider their choices.

"Traditional courses are looking at the job opportunities of today. However, we see a challenge of AI eating up around 60 per cent of the jobs by 2030. This calls for multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary educational courses to prepare the students," notes Maju Jacob, director, Ramaiah Global Center for Executive Education Program.

In this context, AI's prevalence across industries reminds us of the rise in the popularity of computers in the Indian job market around four to five decades ago. Educational campuses that embraced information technology (IT) and prepared students got an edge. "You have to imbibe everything that AI has to offer. It has already been proven that life becomes easier, faster, and more precise in decision-making with AI. Thus, students must opt for AI-enabled courses in any stream, from architecture and agriculture to engineering and law," suggests Janardhan.

According to Surekha Shetty, registrar general, Alliance University, students entering higher education must move beyond conventional career choices. "Be open to exploring a diverse range of emerging opportunities. The options are wide: AI, quantum computing, data science, fintech, cybersecurity, biotechnology, environmental science, public policy, entrepreneurship, and the creative economy," she advises.

> *Be open to exploring a diverse range of emerging opportunities. The options are wide: AI, quantum computing, data science, fintech, cybersecurity, biotechnology, environmental science, public policy, entrepreneurship, and the creative economy*

VOCATIONAL TRACKS BUILD SKILLS

Vocational training has become an important part of the state's higher education sector. Skill universities offer degrees in business and computer applications, with specialisations in areas such as digital finance, supply chain systems, healthcare technology, and more. These courses rely heavily on internships and industry exposure rather than on traditional examinations. Explaining why such a learning model works, Shetty urges students to change the conventional ways. "Career decisions should not be driven solely by marks. Students must have a clear understanding of their aptitude, interests, and industry relevance. Acquire future-ready skills, pursue certifications, gain hands-on experience through internships, and stay updated with global trends."

Jacob believes that experiential learning through interdisciplinary courses is important in any programme. Learners must choose courses that blend entrepreneurship, societal work, and community engagement. Minus such educational programmes, students become isolated technicians. If critical thinking, ownership and problem-solving are built into the curriculum and pedagogy, students automatically become ready for employment. "Critical thinking and ownership come from societal focus, and problem-solving skills come from entrepreneurship and real-world challenges. The pedagogy is what we have to change, not just the syllabus," he shares.

INDUSTRY TIES FOR LONG HAUL

A few universities in Karnataka have gone futuristic with their campus facilities. One example is having an AI factory in partnership with large multinational corporations. "Industries are virtually coming inside academic campuses, and the AI factory is one of its kind in the country. Whether a student is in law or in management, science, commerce, or any stream of engineering, it will prepare them to be ready either to become an entrepreneur with all the latest skills or start their career as an employee and contribute significantly to their employer," shares Janardhan.

It is important to mention here that the higher education council drives skill courses with IT links, adding NEP perks like credit swaps for shifts to deep learning, eco tech, or quantum basics. In such an environment, faculty stress the blending of adaptability with tools. Why? The year 2030 needs all-rounders who pivot fast. Adaptability goes hand in hand with merit. "Long-term success will favour students aspiring to be tomorrow's workforce, who are adaptable, multi-disciplinary, innovative, and committed to continuous learning and professional growth," reminds Shetty.

Parents and students must consider the country's changing narrative as a global leader. Educationalists believe there lies immense avenues. For example, India is focusing on semiconductors and manufacturing as major segments. "The resource gap is around 80 per cent in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the manufacturing sector. Educational institutes should also focus on the hardcore manufacturing segment, including semiconductor manufacturing, semiconductor design, and solutions for smart living, smart business, and smart banking," Jacob underlines.

FUTURISTIC SHIFTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- Strong industry-academia collaboration, including on-campus facilities like AI labs and partnerships with multinational companies
- Integration of interdisciplinary programmes combining technology with design, media, and user experience
- Shift towards practical learning models with internships, lab work, and project-based assessments
- Policy support through NEP 2020, enabling flexibility, credit transfers, and movement across disciplines

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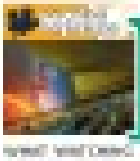

Bangalore Times

Film industry shocked as Vijay's Jana Nayagan leaks online.

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From Discord groups to self-publishing fests, Bengaluru's comic lovers are creating spaces, stories and communities of their own

INDIE ZINES TO COSY CAFES, city's comic verse draws fans together

A PEEK INTO B'LURU'S THRIVING COMIC SCENE: Cosplayers dressed as Spider-Man and other pop culture characters at the Bengaluru Comic Con 2025

When Jatin Varma brought Comic Con India for the first time to Bengaluru in 2012, he was overwhelmed by the response. Held at Koramangala Indoor Stadium that has just one entrance, the queue stretched nearly 500 metres outside the venue. "We never expected that kind of response. Since then, Bengaluru has never disappointed. It's always been one of our best cities," says Jatin Varma, who founded Comic Con with its first event kicking off in Delhi in 2011.

From those early years, the comic ecosystem in Bengaluru has evolved significantly to accommodate more events dedicated to comics, spaces to build communities, and independent creators experimenting beyond mainstream superhero and mythology narratives, amid an influx of anime and manga creations.

"Fans here are very engaged. There are anime groups, indie creators, comic book readers — everyone finds their own community. There's always something happening, whether it's a panel, workshop or meetup," Jatin says.

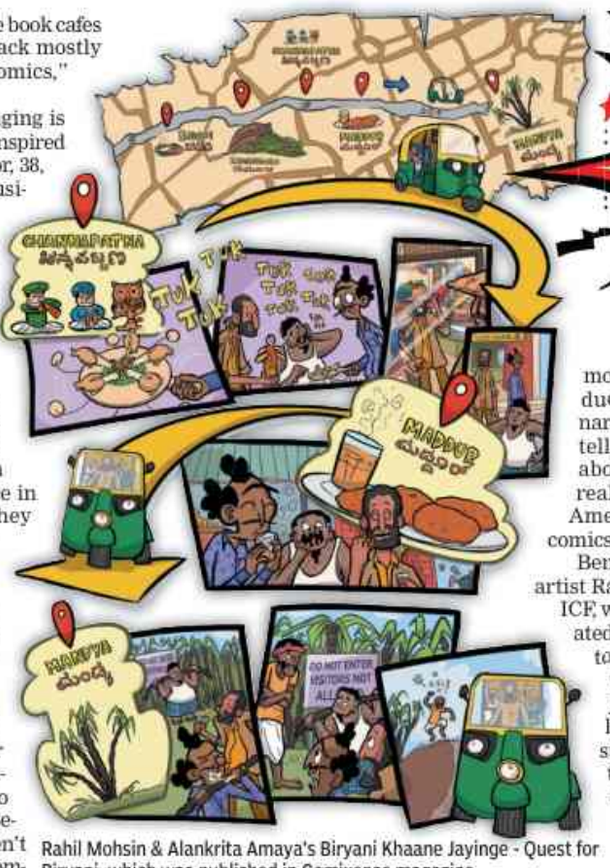
The presence of iconic bookstores and a long-standing reading culture has strengthened this ecosystem, making Bengaluru a fertile ground for both creators and consumers. Mayi Gowda, founder of the Blossom Book House, says that Japanese manga and Korean manwha comics have become hugely popular only in recent years, especially among the youth aged 15-20. "Comic culture of Bengaluru is one of the best in India. We have been selling comics for the past 25 years," he says.

Finding Community

Asha, in her 20s, is a regular at The Comic Cafe, a cozy nook up a concrete staircase in Indiranagar. Settled on a brown sofa parked against the wall, Asha says she comes to the cafe to read a lot of comics and to relax, and to have a sense of belonging for the very love for comics. "I have been to some of the book cafes in the city, but they stack mostly fiction and very few comics," she says.

This sense of belonging is one of the reasons that inspired Delhiite Gaurav Kapoor, 38, to set up the cafe. The business opened two years ago, and Gaurav says rather apologetically that he quickly got lost in the restaurant part of the business, spending hours making pesto and brewing coffees. Feeling the need to refocus towards comics, he and business partner soon moved to the new place in Indiranagar, where they now run a workshop/activity room of sorts. "Here, we train children regularly to make comics, print T-shirts and figurines and toys," he says.

Asha says the comics library at the cafe is a welcome retreat for "introverted" comic enthusiasts like her, who do not really cosplay. "Being an introvert, I haven't been in any in-person communities ... but I am part of a whole bunch of communities on Discord, for different fandoms," she says.



Rahil Mohsin & Alankrita Amaya's Biryani Khaane Jayinge - Quest for Biryani, which was published in Comixense magazine

The concept of comic cafés originated in Japan, where the first Manga Café or Manga Kissa opened in 1979, blending the key aspects of a library, restaurant, and relaxing space into one unique experience

The Rise Of Indie Creators

Beyond marquee events like Comic Con, Bengaluru hosts a range of smaller, community-driven initiatives — from indie comic festivals and sketching meetups to workshops and fan gatherings. Perhaps the most important among them is the India Comix Fest (ICF), a self-publishing platform that began in Mumbai in 2017 as a response to a shrinking space for comics in India. What began as a small gathering soon spread to Delhi and then to Bengaluru in 2018. Today, the city has emerged as one of the strongest hubs for the fest. "Bengaluru has always had the best reception — in terms of participation and people actually buying books," says Bharath Murthy, who cofounded ICF with Aniceto Pereira and a few other volunteers.

Bengaluru's defining feature is its "independent streak", says Jatin. "A lot of irreverent, experimental and non-mainstream content comes out of Bengaluru. People here are willing to try something different, and that sets the city apart," he notes.

The indie comics scene remains creator-driven. The focus is less on consuming global content and more on producing local narratives. "We want to tell our own stories — about our society, our realities. Not just read American or European comics," says Bharath.

Bengaluru-based comic artist Rahil Mohsin says the ICF, which essentially created spaces for creators to connect, has been a turning point. From just 25 artists initially, participation surged to nearly 75 at the 2025 edition, forcing organisers to cap entries, he says.

Unlike structured industries, indie comics thrive on informal networks. Creators often exchange contacts for printers, venues, and workshops, while also supporting each other's events. "It's not a formal collective, but we are always there for each other," Rahil says.

Interestingly, even hyperlocal clusters exist — artists living in the same neighbourhood often meet only at conventions. "At least 15 of us live in the Yelahanka part of the city. But most of us are introverted. We end up interacting more online or at events than in person," Rahil laughs.

Unlike the loud fandoms, Bengaluru's comic culture is almost hidden in plain sight. Walk into Blossom Book House on Church Street, and the prominence of comics at the entrance is hard to miss — a rarity in India's bookstores, says Bharath. Yet, the ecosystem remains skewed towards creators rather than readers. Reader-led collectives are still sparse, probably because of the lack of discoverability at bookstores.

Building Audience, Home & Abroad

The impact of grassroots efforts like ICF is slowly beginning to show. Several artists who started self-publishing at ICF have transitioned into mainstream publishing. Bharath cites 'Musalman', a satirical superhero comic by Falafezal, published by Yoda Press, and 'Sanitary Panels' by Rachita Taneja — both of whom were part of the indie circuit. "Publishers are slowly waking up to the fact that comics are a serious medium. That this is a genre worth investing in," he says.

For independent creators like Mohammed Ali Vakil, the journey into comics wasn't through traditional publishing houses, but through experimentation, social media, and a deeply personal archive of stories. "I grew up in Dubai, and a lot of what I learned about Indian culture and history came through comics," Ali says.

After moving to India in 2002, Ali began illustrating stories rooted in Sufi philosophy—eventually co-founding Sufi Comics under Sufi Studios with his brother. His approach flipped the traditional publishing model. Instead of creating a full-length book and then seeking distribution, he began by sharing single comic strips online.

"We didn't know if people would like it. So, we just put it out there, one strip at a time," Ali says. Over time, those snippets built a loyal following—one that would later convert into buyers when the comics were compiled into books.

Today, nearly half of his audience is international, spanning countries like the US, UK, Malaysia, and Australia, with the rest based in India. "We're not limited to bookstores anymore. The whole world is the market," says Ali, whose books sell mostly online in India.

India's comic decline, according to artists, is tied to a broader shift in media consumption. As digital platforms surged, print formats like comic strips and magazines were abandoned. But then there's a reversal happening. "People are going back to comics," says Bharath.

"It's always there, and now actually popular books like Orwell's Animal Farm and 1984, and To Kill a Mockingbird, are also coming out in a comic format, and are in huge demand," says Mayi Gowda.

Despite the rather slow growth of indie creators, challenges remain, particularly in distribution and discoverability for independent creators. To address this, Jatin has launched the Comic Book Trust of India, aimed at documenting creators, improving access to audiences, and enabling support systems such as grants.

"There is a lot of talent, but not all of it reaches the right audience. The idea is to build systems that can help scale the industry — from maybe 50 comics a year to 300 or more," he says.

—Aaditya Tandon
(With inputs from Habeeba Salim)

"We're not limited to bookstores anymore. The whole world is the market -half of our buyers are outside India
Mohammed Ali Vakil | SUFI COMICS

"We want to tell our own stories — about our society, our realities. Not just read American or European comics
Bharath Murthy | INDIE COMIX FEST CO-FOUNDER & PUBLISHER

"Fans in Bengaluru are very engaged. There are anime groups, indie creators, comic book readers — everyone finds their own community
Jatin Varma | FOUNDER, COMIC CON

"Events may see tens of thousands of footfalls, but a large section of the audience isn't really there for comics. Indian creators often get overshadowed by American and Japanese content
Rahil Mohsin | WHO CO-CREATED HALIBOL, WORLD'S FIRST DAKNI-LANGUAGE COMIC SERIES, WITH WIFE

TIMES CITY

MAY DEADLINE FOR FLOOD WORKS
If missed, engineers face suspension

With monsoon approaching, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has issued a stern warning to engineers handling flood mitigation works across the city, stating that failure to complete projects by the end of May will invite suspension. Officials have also been directed to conduct drone surveys of major stormwater drains before and after desilting works. Tushar Giri Nath, additional chief secretary, during an inspection of multiple flood-prone areas Friday, directed officials to ensure that all critical works are completed before the rains and that temporary measures are put in place wherever delays persist. TNN

File photo

UNDER THE WATER: GBA has directed officials to conduct drone surveys of major stormwater drains before and after desilting

- **Kendriya Vihar and Kogilu Junction —** A 2.7km drain connecting Yelahanka Lake to Jakkur Lake is underway, with 1.5 km already completed. Temporary drains have also been created to ensure uninterrupted water flow this monsoon
- **Tata Nagar near Doddabommasandra —** A 900-metre drain is under construction, along with raised retaining walls. Officials have been instructed to complete desilting, widen outlets, and fix missing drainage links within 15 days
- **Hebbal —** A large-scale wetland development project across 192 acres is underway to improve water absorption and hence, reduce flooding, including at Hebbal Junction and under the flyover. Works to divert rainwater directly into the lake and address important waterlogging points are nearing completion
- **Nagawara Junction —** BWSSB pipeline works are expected to be completed within 15 days, followed by road concretising in another 15 days to ensure both flood mitigation and smoother traffic flow
- **Manyata Tech Park and ORR stretches —** Land has been acquired to construct new stormwater drains, including two artificial channels connecting to Hebbal Valley
- **HBR Layout and Sai Layout —** Delays in BWSSB's intake well project due to rocky terrain have pushed deadlines to Oct. In the interim, authorities have planned pumping systems to manage excess water. At Gedalahalli, critical railway vent works are underway and have been directed to be completed by the end of May, which will help divert water from HBR Layout

Disaster preparedness

GBA has asked civic bodies to activate control rooms, deploy nodal officers, and coordinate with agencies, including BWSSB, Bescom, Metro, railways and fire services. Measures have also been ordered to handle fallen trees and ensure quick response to public complaints during the rainy season.

Creative stalls set to jazz up Happy Streets tomorrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As Happy Streets by **The Times of India** continues its lively run at Bhartiya City this Sunday, the street programming will feature a vibrant mix of creativity, awareness, and interactive experiences for all age groups.

Along the traffic-free stretch near Central Park, residents can explore a range of engaging stalls. The Reclaim Constitution stall will offer copies of the Preamble and facilitate conversations around civic values. Art lovers can take part in mandala art sessions by Prashree Art, while Vicky's Craft will host activities such as picture identification for preschoolers and drawing competitions for schoolchildren.

NeeRav Arts Village will introduce participants to mudgar, a traditional Indian strength training tool, blending fitness with cultural heritage. The Postcrossing Society of India will conduct interactive sessions on postcard writing and stamp collecting.

Happy Streets, presented by Bhima Jewellers, will be held near Central Park. Entry is free.

BHIMA presents HAPPY streets OUR ROADS. OUR WAY.

Reward for hard work: GBA PU colleges' 260 pupils to get ₹35k

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Bengaluru: Pre-university colleges under the Bengaluru city corporations recorded a pass percentage of 74.16% in the II PU examination, the results of which were announced Thursday.

A total of 2,593 students from 19 PU colleges across five city corporations appeared for the exam and of these, 1,923 cleared it. Among them, 260 students secured over 85% marks, qualifying for distinction.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority announced a cash incentive of Rs 35,000 each for all 260 distinction holders. GBA's senior assistant director (education), Munishamappa, said the amount will be provided by the respective corporations under their education budgets. "This year's number of distinction holders in corporation PU colleges was the highest so far. We saw an improvement in the overall results. In addition to this, GBA will be announcing Rs 25,000 scholarships for SSLC students from corporation schools, who score more than 85%," he said.

Among institutions, Bhairaveshwara Nagar PU College under the west city corporation emerged as the top performer with a pass percentage of 88.82; followed by Kasturibanagar PU College under the central city corporation, with 86.45%, and Srirampura PU College under the west city corporation, with 81.99%.

Students from Cleveland Town PU College under the north city corporation put up a strong performance. Firdose and Sajida (CEBA) scored 582 out of 600 (97%) in the commerce stream, while Afreen Kouser (PCMB) secured 578 out of 600 (96.3%) in the science stream.

In arts, Musarath Nadeem Pasha from Bhairaveshwara Nagar PU College scored 574 out of 600 (95.66%), emerging as a top performer.

PU student gets 683/600 marks, board blames technical error

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a strange goof-up, a II PU student was awarded a total of 683 marks out of 600 in the results published Thursday.

Following this, Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board provided a clarification Friday that the mistake was due to a technical fault.

The marks obtained out of 80 by private candidates and repeaters of 2024 and 2025 batches needed to be converted to a scale of 100. According to the department, a technical error in the programming process resulted in the discrepancy.

KSEAB then published the revised marks, which it asked students to consider as the final marks.

"The board expresses regret for the inconvenience caused due to the technical error. It is also clarified that there is no discrepancy in the results of students appearing for the 2026 examination," the board's statement said.

April showers bring respite from heat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: After nearly a week of scorching heat and rising anticipation of the seasonal 'April showers', the city finally witnessed widespread rain Friday, bringing much-needed relief from soaring temperatures. Except for an isolated trace of rain on April 4, Bengaluru had remained largely dry despite mercury levels climbing to 35.4°C in recent days.

Light to moderate thunderstorms swept across several parts of the city from the afternoon.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s central observatory on Palace Road recorded 1.2mm of rainfall until 5.30pm. Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) recorded 7.6mm of rainfall by evening. The weather disrupted air traffic, leading to the diversion of three flights to Chennai. A flight carrying governor Thaawarchand Gehlot was diverted back to Mangaluru.

Weather officials indicated that rain is likely to continue over the coming days. IMD scientists have forecast further spells of thundershowers through the weekend. "Given the surge in mercury levels since the beginning of April, the thundershowers were anticipated in the first week of April. But the activity was restricted to a mere trace last Saturday in isolation," explained a senior scientist.

N Puviyarasan, scientist and head of IMD, Bengaluru, attributed the sudden intensification of thunderstorm activity to evolving atmospheric conditions. "The thunderstorm activity over the city gained momentum due to an upper air cyclonic circulation over North Tamil Nadu and adjoining parts of Karnataka at 1.5km above the sea level. In addition to this, north-south trough from interior Odisha to Gulf of Mannar extending across the peninsular region has also impacted the thunderstorm activity," he said.

IMD also noted that several parts of south interior Karnataka recorded a rise in maximum temperatures ranging between 1.6°C and 3°C above normal in recent days, setting the stage for the current spell of pre-monsoon showers.

TOI

"Given the surge in mercury levels since the beginning of April, the thundershowers were anticipated in the first week of April. But the activity was restricted to a mere trace last Saturday in isolation
Senior scientist | IMD

NATURAL COOLING: Light to moderate rain lashed Bengaluru from Friday afternoon

PU student found dead at home

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A II PU student was found hanging inside her Kanakanagar residence in Hebbal Thursday evening.

The deceased has been identified as R Tanushree, 17, a student with a private college. According to police, Tanushree called a friend and said she had failed in three subjects. She also sent a message to her, stating, "Fielding set at 3pm."

"The friend consoled Tanushree, saying she could pass in the supplementary exams. Around 3.30pm, she called Tanushree again but received no response. Then, she rushed to her home and knocked on the door repeatedly. On receiving no response, she peeped through the window and saw Tanushree hanging from the ceiling fan. Immediately, she called her father, who rushed to the spot. He broke open the door and shifted Tanushree to a nearby hospital, where she was declared brought dead. We don't see any foul play," a cop said.

(If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in need of emotional support, call suicide prevention helplines: Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777)

HAL Aerospace Museum reopens with immersive upgrades

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum has reopened after a major upgrade, introducing immersive installations and advanced aviation exhibits to enhance visitor experience.

The revamped facility was unveiled by HAL chairman and managing director DK Sunil, and will be open to the public from Monday.

The key attractions following the revamp include a life-size HTFE-25 engine replica, a 3D runway with Tejas and Prachand, the Wings of Bharat multi-sensory show, and a dedicated interactive zone for children. Wings of Bharat, a multi-sensory show set in a hangar-like space, showcases HAL's contributions to the nation. A Dhruv helicopter cockpit simulator offers hands-on flying experience.

Visitors can also engage with Tejasvi, a holographic avatar that presents the organisation's legacy and achievements. The museum also features 3D models of HAL's products across aircraft, helicopters, engines, and space technologies, along with digital archives and milestone displays.

A dedicated children's zone includes interactive games, design activities, quizzes, an immersive space shuttle module, and an augmented reality photo booth. Outdoors, the aircraft park displays platforms such as HF-24 Marut, Ajeet, Lakshya pilotless target aircraft, LCA Tejas, Dhruv advanced light helicopter, and MiG-21.

The museum, located on Old Airport Road, will be open daily from 9am to 4.30pm. Set up in 2001, it is recognised as India's first aerospace museum and remains a key city landmark.

Fields to follow for bright prospects

Popular, promising and passion-driven, these professions are stealing the limelight for all the right reasons, ranging from their employability to growth opportunities

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In recent years, India has witnessed a prominent transition in career preferences among its youth. Professions such as engineering, medicine, and law are no longer the sole aspirations. Instead, fields like artificial intelligence (AI), design, data science, and digital content creation are being increasingly preferred.

CONTENT CREATION ON THE RISE

The proliferation of social media has given rise to digital content creation and influencer marketing as viable careers. Individuals utilise digital platforms to display talents, share knowledge, and build personal brands. This trend is particularly pronounced in India, where a youthful demographic and widespread internet access converge. According to industry experts, building a career in influencer marketing requires mastering PR, networking, trendspotting, and content creation. The sector is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25 per cent over the next five years, indicating its expanding role in brand marketing strategies.

WHERE CREATIVITY MEETS TECHNOLOGY

Design has become a sought-after career, combining creativity with technological proficiency. The digital era has expanded the scope of design to include user experience (UX), user interface (UI), and digital marketing design. Indian students are increasingly exploring careers in design, recognising the opportunity to leverage their innate talents and the rising market demand. Reports suggest that in 2025, India will need over 100,000 designers, yet there's a big gap; only around 7,000 professionals are qualified to meet this demand. With the design industry growing at 25 per cent per year, this is a huge opportunity for students to turn their passion into a successful career.

> *Building a career as an influencer requires authenticity and consistency. The direct engagement with an audience and the ability to impact lives is truly gratifying*

PHOTOS USED FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

TOWARDS HI-TECH CAREERS

The demand for AI and data science professionals in India has surged, reflecting global trends. Industries across sectors are integrating AI to strengthen operations, leading to a need for skilled individuals. A recent report highlights several factors contributing to this trend:

- **High demand in various industries:** Sectors such as healthcare, finance, and e-commerce are increasingly relying on data-driven decisionmaking, creating opportunities for data scientists.
- **Adoption of new technologies:** Companies are welcoming machine learning and AI to stay competitive, requiring a team that is proficient in these areas.
- **Opportunities in different sectors:** Beyond IT, fields like agriculture and education are exploring AI applications, broadening the scope for professionals.

Engaging with AI technologies offers students more than just academic enrichment; it provides them with an upper hand in the job market. AI professionals in India can expect to earn significantly more than their peers in traditional roles, reflecting the high demand and limited supply of skilled AI practitioners. Moreover, the ability to innovate with AI opens doors to leadership roles in tech and beyond, positioning individuals as forerunners in their fields.

PHOTOS: ISTOCK

PHOTOS: ISTOCK

AI SHOWS THE WAY

Artificial intelligence is not only a career choice but also a tool aiding students in their career decisions. A 2024 survey revealed that over 85 per cent of students are utilising AI tools for career assistance, indicating a shift towards technology-driven guidance methods. However, the survey also noted that 40 per cent of students have never consulted a career counsellor, highlighting gaps in traditional counselling practices.

To gain deeper insight into this evolving landscape, we spoke with professionals who have explored these emerging career paths. Here's what they have to say:

Ananya Sharma, a data scientist at a leading tech firm, shares, "Transitioning from a conventional engineering role to data science was because of my passion for analytics. The field's incredible nature and its impact on decision-making processes are truly rewarding."

Rohan Mehta, a digital designer and founder of a design studio, remarks, "The combination of art and technology in design allows for endless creativity. It's fulfilling to see how design influences user experiences in the digital world."

Priya Kapoor, a successful lifestyle influencer, says, "Building a career as an influencer requires authenticity and consistency. The direct engagement with an audience and the ability to impact lives is truly gratifying."

Recognising these trends, educational institutions in India are adapting their curricula to include courses in AI, design, and digital marketing. This evolution aims to help students with relevant skills, creating synergy between traditional education and industry demands. Moreover, online platforms offer specialised courses, providing flexible learning opportunities for aspiring professionals.

OVERCOMING THE HURDLES

While the shift towards these modern careers is promising, it is not without challenges. The rapid evolution of technology necessitates continuous learning and adaptability. Additionally, the gig nature of many digital content roles may lack the stability associated with traditional careers. Therefore, students must weigh their options, considering both passion and practicality.

Indian students are at the front and centre of redefining success by welcoming careers aligned with the digital age. Fields like AI, design, and digital content creation offer avenues for innovation, creativity, and personal fulfilment. As the professional environment continues to evolve, adaptability and commitment to lifelong learning will be key to thriving in these careers.

TRENDS TO NOTE

- There is a clear shift away from traditional professions, driven by passion, digital access, and tech exposure
- Professions like UI/UX design and influencer marketing are booming, offering creative, flexible paths with strong growth prospects
- AI is not only a lucrative career option but also a tool for career guidance, even as traditional counselling remains underutilised
- Tech-driven careers offering innovation and independence now demand constant skill upgrades and relearning

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Uncover how hands-on experience can spark students' creative instincts and boost their holistic development

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American polymath Benjamin Franklin once said, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." In line with this philosophy, many educational institutions are placing greater prominence on experiential or hands-on learning methods to help students become better learners.

The Indian education system was heavily tilted towards rote learning. However, students today are no longer confined to the four walls of a classroom. Several institutions are now offering programmes that provide enough opportunities for hands-on learning. Attempts are being made to change the 'teachers-talk, students-listen' model to a more interactive approach by incorporating experimental workshops, applied studies, field trips, internships, and more. This approach enables young minds to learn through practical experiences.

As per educationists, experiential learning is an essential antidote to help future-proof children, enabling them to cope and adapt to an ever-evolving world. "In today's fast-changing world, the conventional 'chalk and talk' method is not enough to build a future-ready workforce. Experiential learning, where students get to try things for themselves, is a powerful way to connect lessons to real life, helping students to not only learn facts but also develop independent thinking and problem-solving skills," informs Nirvaan Birla, MD and founder of an e-learning platform.

A WEALTH OF LASTING BENEFITS

Experiential learning leaves a lasting impact on students by offering a range of benefits that go beyond traditional education models. Research shows that when individuals gain practical experience, they retain that information for longer periods. Therefore, this methodology greatly helps students build foundational concepts, deepen their understanding of the subject, improve engagement, and, most importantly, gain clarity about their future.

"Not every student knows what they want to do in the future. Early exposure to real-world situations allows students to apply knowledge in real situations, preparing them for future challenges. "The aim of a good education system is not to teach students what to learn but how to learn. assess, within their traditional education setup, whether a subject aligns with their interests or not. If they feel the work is not to their liking, they can practically explore other areas they may be passionate about. Motivation and engagement are key to enhancing learning outcomes. Therefore, by learning in the real-world context, students gain confidence in their ability to solve relevant problems, and because of higher motivation, they also have a greater chance of completing their courses," says Diwakar Chittora, CEO of a global online professional training provider.

Moreover, this type of learning also helps to develop skills like problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking. Students learn how to The benefits of experiential learning are manifold. It boosts creativity and leads to greater resilience and adaptability. It is also an effective method to incorporate the social-emotional learning (SEL) framework. SEL has five main skills: self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision-making, self-management, and relationship skills. All these skills are increasingly crucial, especially when artificial intelligence (AI) becomes more widely adopted," avers Praneet Mungali, trustee and educationist at a school.

A STEP TOWARDS FUTURE-READINESS

Although this methodology has long existed, it has recently gained momentum, especially in higher education. Considering that students need practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge to be industry-ready, several universities assign enquiry-based projects, allowing students to independently seek information on various topics rather than getting it directly from professors. This enables students to make discoveries through practical experience.

Furthermore, to give students firsthand industry experience, many institutions have made internships mandatory, as they provide invaluable training for students to face the real corporate world after graduation. Industry-led projects or short-term work experiences give undergraduates a chance to explore various fields that can shape their career aspirations.

Such projects place students at the heart of knowledge discovery, thus increasing curiosity in them to seek information through fieldwork. Through active involvement, students develop a strong sense of ownership of their projects, leading to a much higher level of understanding and commitment than they might achieve through traditional classroom learning.

> *Considering that students need practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge to be industry-ready, several institutes assign enquiry-based projects, allowing students to independently seek information on various topics rather than getting it directly from professors*

ISTOCK

FIND OUT IF YOU'RE READY FOR THE BIG LEAGUES

With the transition from school to college approaching, it's time to brace for change and kickstart a new chapter in your educational journey

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By starting your college journey on a positive footing, you can approach your first semester with a calm and resilient mindset and ensure you have a great time on campus. The initial days of college can fill you with nervous excitement; after all, it's an important period for building a solid foundation for the months ahead. Here, we discuss some of the crucial things you must focus on for a favourable start to your college days.

GET A LAY OF THE LAND

Explore your college premises thoroughly during your free time in case you didn't get a tour during your orientation. Identify where the libraries, auditoriums, restrooms, admin departments, classrooms, lecture halls, canteen, study rooms, etc. are situated to familiarise yourself with the campus and navigate it easily.

ASSESS THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

It's important for students to clearly understand the academic structure and clarify any queries about the curriculum within the first few days to enjoy a hassle-free journey ahead. Ankur Chaurasia, an assistant professor at a college, lists a few key factors to consider:

- The classes covered during the semester, their syllabus, and allotment of credits.
- Weightage in marks given to project work and examinations.
- Additional study material and resources required such as books, special software, digital tools, etc.
- The minimum attendance required, and any penalties involved with excess absent days.
- Tentative timelines for project submissions and examinations.

CONFIRM YOUR ENROLMENT

Even after you receive admittance into a college or university, your final enrolment can still be pending, especially if you are an outstation student or hail from a different educational background. Chaurasia suggests, "Take time to check with the admin authorities if all your documentation and fee payments are in place and whether you need to complete any more formalities. It's important to sort this out before you sit for your first round of examinations to avoid last-minute complications." Furthermore, students can also enquire about the scholarships being offered and whether they qualify for any.

THROW A WIDE SOCIAL NET

While it's natural to socialise with like-minded individuals, make sure that you don't limit your social circle. College is a wonderful time to broaden your social horizons and work on your emotional intelligence. Interact with people from different backgrounds and streams, recommends Tanushree Prakash, a final-year media student. She details, "This helps you create a support system beyond your batchmates. Moreover, approach your seniors and build a good rapport with them as they can assist you in not only academics but also locating internships and gigs for freshers. I also found it encouraging to connect with professors outside my department as they can guide you with other extracurricular opportunities and interdisciplinary learning and career moves."

SEEK EARLY-BIRD OPPORTUNITIES

In the initial days of an academic year, every college undergoes a flurry of extracurricular developments. From changes in the student council to new inductions in the cultural clubs and talent contests, there's much that happens. Keep yourself updated to partake in the activities that interest you and find a platform to make your mark.

You can also get involved in campus organisations or join clubs and student associations that align with your passions and hobbies. This will offer ample opportunities for personal growth and networking, and to develop your leadership, communication and other soft skills. Besides this, one must get a comprehensive understanding of the college's cultural calendar to avoid missing out on anything exciting.

EXPLORE VARIOUS OFF-CAMPUS OFFERINGS

Cultural events and college fests aren't limited to your college. "The inter-collegiate cultural activities make for an unmissable experience. It feels amazing to attend or even partake in events at other colleges. It offers a change of pace, which is very exciting, especially in the first few months," expresses Preksha Rughani, a college student.

Moreover, you must explore hang-out spots, food joints, coffee shops, street food stalls, and other recreational areas near your college to make the most of your off-campus hours and class breaks. Rughani states, "Finding enjoyable haunts near the campus allows you to have fun and plan a quick outing with your friends without travelling too far after a long day. It also makes college life more fun when you have some promising places to rely on. Not to forget, mark a few accessible stationery and photocopy shops near the premises for your material needs."

From identifying opportunities during orientation to building social connections and nurturing personal interests, life in college is more than just academic pursuits and goals.

©ISTOCK

Asian flavours take over Bengaluru with a multi-cuisine food festival

Forthcoming Stores

APRIL 11-12
TAJ WEST END
RACE COURSE ROAD, B.G.L.

Court: Blood sample can't be taken without lawful arrest

Police: Woman Tested Positive For Cocaine

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a significant ruling reinforcing procedural safeguards, the high court Friday held that collecting a blood sample without a lawful arrest is impermissible, and any such evidence cannot be relied upon in prosecution.

"Section 51 of BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita), which governs medical examination, can be invoked only upon the existence of a lawful arrest," observed Justice M Nagaprasanna. Emphasising strict adherence to due process, the court noted that a valid arrest requires compliance with statutory safeguards such as communicating the grounds of arrest, recording reasons, and following mandatory procedures. "Where a blood sample is produced pursuant to an illegal arrest, the resulting medical and forensic report stands vitiated and cannot be relied upon by the prosecution," the judge added while allowing a petition filed by a 28-year-old woman.

A resident of KR Pura, east Bengaluru, the petitioner was arraigned as accused no. 12 in the suo motu complaint lodged by Devanahalli police. It pertained to organising a birthday party without permission at a mansion known as "Ellavoma House" on Kannamangala Road.

Between 30 and 35 persons are said to have gathered at the venue and were allegedly consuming intoxicating substances and alcohol between 9.30pm on May 24, 2025 and 7.15am on May 25, 2025. A case was registered for offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and also sections 292, 296 and 3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the accused. Thereafter, the petitioner was arrested and released on the same day, after her blood sample was collected.

Challenging the same, the petitioner argued that her mere presence at the venue would not constitute an offence and that no contraband was recovered from her. She added that her arrest itself was not lawful. On the other hand, police maintained that the petitioner had tested positive for cocaine consumption.

However, Justice Nagaprasanna noted that in cases where offences punishable with imprisonment of less than seven years, the accused cannot be arrested strictly. There is no material to demonstrate that the arresting officer recorded any reasonable suspicion or credible information linking the petitioner to a cognisable offence. Thus, the petitioner's alleged arrest appears to falter on fundamental grounds, the judge observed.

The petitioner's blood sample was obtained, in the absence of a lawful arrest, as the essential procedural safeguards and legal prerequisites governing arrest were neither observed nor complied with, rendering the purported arrest invalid in the eyes of the law, the judge pointed out.

HC QUASHES PIL OVER HINDI MARKS STATEMENT, IMPOSES ₹1 LAKH COST

Bengaluru: The high court Friday dismissed a PIL plea against a newspaper statement attributed to state education minister Madhu Bangarappa on doing away with marks that class 10 students obtain in third language Hindi. The court said, "No such statement appeared in the newspaper."

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha initially imposed Rs 50,000 fine on petitioners S Venkatesh and his wife HN Chandana, residents of Nelamangala taluk, Bengaluru Rural. The fine was later increased to Rs 1 lakh. The petitioners claimed the minister's press statement indicated that with no marks awarded, Hindi would no longer be compulsory and that the state would implement two-language formula. The petitioners claimed the statement was "extremely derogatory" and urged the court to exercise its "extraordinary jurisdiction" to set aside the news item which appeared in a Kannada newspaper.

The petitioners' counsel submitted the minister's statement indicating that Hindi should be done away with. "This statement is erroneous, and no such statement appeared in the newspaper. This establishes that the present petition is a motivated one, maybe to seek publicity," the bench said before doubling the fine. TNN

Liquor shop at KIA flouts rules

Bengaluru: A liquor outlet on the premises of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) was recently found operating beyond permitted hours and violating excise norms.

According to a complaint filed by head constable Basappa Billur, during his night patrol duty on April 7, he found an MRP liquor outlet, 'Living Liquidz', in Terminal 2 open around 11.45pm. The outlet staff allegedly ignored his instructions to shut the shop and continued operations. TNN

X users booked for hate posts

Bengaluru: A complaint has been registered over hate posts on X targeting IPL fan groups of CSK and RCB.

IPL RIVALRY

A complaint was filed by SI Vinod R Naik, attached to Central cybercrime police. The post by @ltz_Bl3ze supporting CSK featured a jersey with the words "2025 11 murders" and urged CSK fans to take the jersey to M Chinnaswamy Stadium. A RCB supporter replied from @bholination, "I can promise he won't be returning home on his feet for this inhuman act." Police said the posts were intended to incite hatred and disrupt public harmony. Efforts are on to trace the users. TNN

Man harms himself at police stn after teacher files plaint

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Bengaluru: A 40-year-old teacher was duped and blackmailed by a man posing as her former classmate on messaging apps. It ended in a dramatic scene at a police station when he harmed himself.

'CLASSMATE' TRAP

Aadhya (name changed), a resident of Electronics City, in her complaint Wednesday told police that Arshad, 37, a resident of Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh, sent her a WhatsApp message a year ago, introducing himself as her former classmate, Niraj Kumar. Over the next three months, he gained her trust. He allegedly told her he was from Tirupati and could arrange special darshan for devotees at the temple. She gave him money for booking visits for her family and friends.

A senior police officer said Arshad frequently visited Bengaluru and met the complainant. The accused then claimed he was suffering from cancer and sought financial help. The complainant transferred nearly Rs 50,000 to him. Taking advantage of her emotional vulnerability, he later made a shocking demand, asking her to share a nude video, claiming it was his last wish before death.

Aadhya told police that after obtaining the video, he began blackmailing her, threatening to leak it unless she paid more money. He also sought sexual favours. Out of fear, she continued to make online payments and he continued to blackmail her.

Determined to end the ordeal, Aadhya informed her acquaintances about the issue. She agreed to meet Arshad and pay the money. She asked him to meet her on April 8. She and her acquaintances confronted him and tried to force him to delete the video. When he refused, they took him to Electronics City police station. Arshad requested her not to file a complaint, as she did not want her family to know about her friendship with him.

As the woman was writing the complaint, the accused, who had come with a bag containing clothes and a shaving kit, was standing near her and reportedly injured his hands and private parts with a razor. Police rushed him to a private hospital, where he underwent treatment.

ACCUSED BOUGHT HER OLD PHONE

Police found that Aadhya had sold her mobile phone. During one of his visits to the city, Arshad purchased the same phone. He installed the messaging app Telegram, and retrieved Aadhya's account. Arshad then checked her messages and obtained her number. He then started messaging her as her classmate. Even after she learned that he wasn't her classmate, she continued the friendship and met him on multiple occasions.

> Arshad, an engineering graduate, is unemployed and separated from his wife. A notice has been served on him to appear before the investigating officer
> — A senior police officer

Partial relief for Frazer Town stretch after TOI report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A day after **TOI** highlighted the problems faced by pedestrians on a dusty road, in a report titled 'Strait of Frazer: Choke point gives commuters a dusty ride', the civic authorities swung into action and cleaned up Netaji Road near Cantonment area and Frazer Town railway parallel road.

Residents on Friday reported initial improvements after months of enduring road excavation and severe dust pollution caused by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) pipeline work. Authorities have begun clearing accumulated sand and debris from dug-up portions — an issue locals had flagged repeatedly.

Pics: Syed Asif

SLOW PROGRESS: Residents reported initial improvements on Netaji Road Friday, after months of enduring road excavation and severe dust pollution caused by BWSSB's pipeline work

While the response remains partial, residents acknowledged that the report brought attention to their concerns. Khalid Quraishi, a shopkeeper, said cleaning activities began soon after the issue gained visibility. "Cleaning was being done, but it has stopped now because of the rain. At least for now, the dust around my area has settled," he said, pointing to temporary relief.

Zafar Mannat, a local tailor, echoed similar views. "They started removing the sand and dust after the issue came out, but because of rain, the work has paused," he further added.

Despite the progress, residents remain wary that the measures may not address the root of the problem. Cleaning has been carried out only on select stretches, leaving large portions of Netaji Road still affected.

Officials of Greater Bengaluru Authority, meanwhile, said BWSSB has been instructed to expedite the pending works to ensure road restoration is completed before the onset of monsoon.

— Nyasa Gupta & Jia Khosla

'Zombie drug' viral video: Man who recorded, shared misleading clip held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Acting swiftly on a misinformation video on social media showing a man allegedly under the influence of a 'zombie drug', Bagalur police on Thursday arrested **Hemanth Kumar**, 29, a resident of Vidyaranyapura and executive at an eyewear firm.

Hemanth had made the video on his phone and uploaded it on his Instagram account. Police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh debunked the claim based on the man's medical examination report. Home minister G Parameshwara said: "He had consumed alcohol along with medicines, which affected him. There is no zombie drug involved."

Hemanth, who was passing by the institute around 11.30am on April 7, noticed a man struggling to walk. Suspecting he was under the influence of a 'zombie drug', he made and uploaded a 32-second video. His scooter was also visible in it, which helped police trace him.

Hemanth told police he had seen videos of so-called "zombie drug" users allegedly from the US, Russia and other counties on YouTube. Based on those clips, he assumed the man he filmed had consumed such a substance. The clip went viral and was widely shared, including by an actor and a retired IPS officer. After being apprehended, Hemanth released a video confession, apologising to the people of Karnataka for causing panic.

The man in the video was traced and subjected to a medical examination. Doctors clarified that no narcotic or psychotropic substances were detected in him. He is suffering from arthritis and sinusitis and had consumed prescribed medication along with alcohol, which led to the disoriented behaviour.

Singh said: "People should make comments only after knowing the facts. We are issuing notices to those who shared the video as well."

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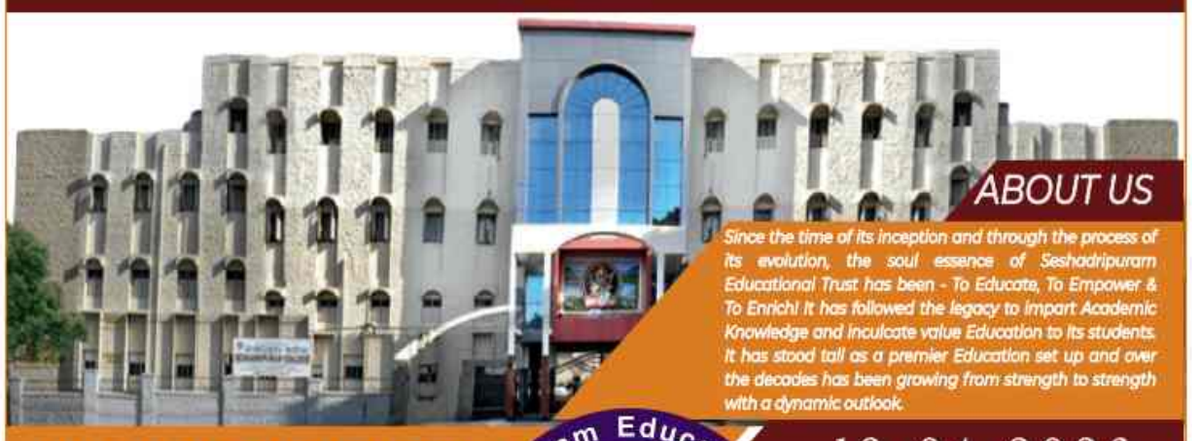

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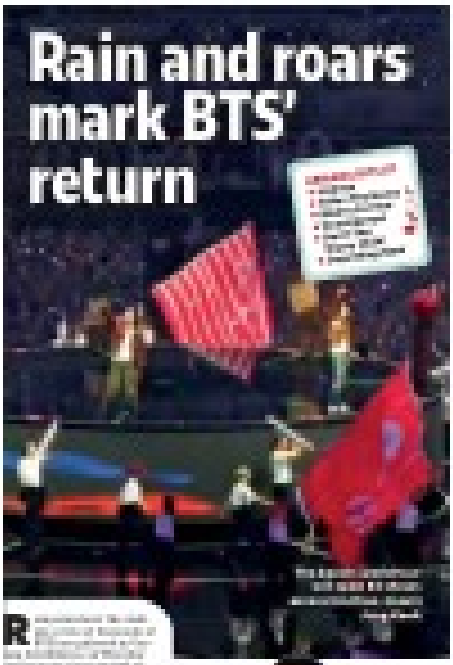
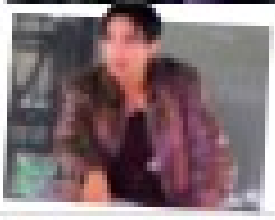
Rain and roars mark BTS' return





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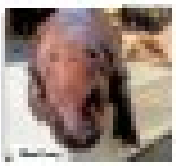

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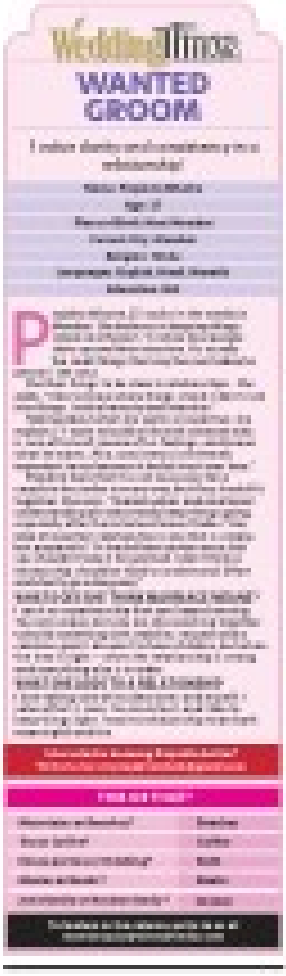
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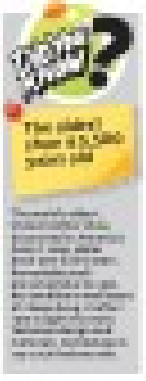

Is your game improving or just your screen time?

Cracks in Congress' minority bloc: Khan accused of anti-party activity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Once seen as indispensable to Congress' outreach among Muslims in Karnataka, housing minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan now faces intense scrutiny within the party, with allegations of "anti-party" activity during the Davanagere South bypoll reaching the high command.

Sections of Congress' minority members have accused Khan, MLC Abdul Jabbar and the chief minister's political secretary Naseer Ahmed of "working against" Congress candidate Samarth Shamanur. The dissent surfaced publicly Friday, with legislative council chief whip Saleem Ahmed and Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad leading a veiled attack.

TOI

IN CROSSHAIRS: File pic of Zameer Ahmed Khan. He has been accused of "working against" the Congress candidate in Davanagere South

DANCE OF DEMOCRACY

Sources say a two-page report has been sent to the high command outlining developments during candidate selection and campaigning. AICC general secretary and Karnataka co-in charge Abhishek Dutt, who was present in Davanagere during the campaign, is learnt to have relayed feedback to AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who oversees Karnataka.

"Some senior members conspired to defeat Congress in the Davanagere byelections," Ahmed and Arshad said at a joint press conference. "The chief minister, KPCC president DK Shivakumar and the party high command are aware of this."

Arshad said the decision to field Samarth was a collective one. "All of us agreed to support Samarth. However, even as we were at the table, some appear to have spread rumours that Congress was not supporting minorities. This narrative was amplified on social media and picked up by the opposition," he said.

However, Ahmed insisted internal discord would not affect the outcome of the election. He said internal surveys show a clear victory for Congress in both Davanagere South and Bagalkot bypolls.

Ahmed said minority voters largely backed the party. He credited the govt's five guarantee schemes as a key electoral factor. "These schemes have created new hope and will ensure victory," he said.

However, Arshad acknowledged internal missteps. "We made the mistake of recommending only one name. If multiple names had been suggested, the situation could have been handled better," he said, referring to the initial push for Abdul Jabbar's candidature.

He noted that while the demand for minority representation was genuine, the approach led to friction. "There was significant pressure within the party to field Jabbar. All Muslim MLAs and ministers had backed his name, but differences later surfaced during the campaign," he said.

If BJP wins, we'll have sleepless nights: Min

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a rare candour, public works minister **Satish Jarkiholi** Friday admitted a BJP victory in both Davanagere South and Bagalkot assembly byelections could put the Congress govt under sustained pressure for the next two years.

But Jarkiholi, who marshalled the party's campaign in Bagalkot, leading a band of 20 ministers, was confident Congress would win both seats.

"There is no comparison between Shiggaon and Bagalkot," he said, a reference to the 2024 byelection which Congress won despite Shiggaon being a BJP bastion. "After studying the situation, we understood what needs to be done. Bagalkot is a Congress seat."

Jarkiholi cautioned BJP would continue to target the govt even if Congress lost a single seat. "If we win both, we can govern independently," he said.

Jarkiholi emphasised the need for stronger grassroots engagement, urging party workers to focus on direct voter outreach rather than relying only on schemes and programmes.

On leadership issues, he said he was unaware of any move to replace the chief minister. He urged the party high command to address internal differences, undertake a cabinet reshuffle, and clear pending appointments to party posts and boards without waiting for the bypoll results.

Arshad also pointed to the role of opposition BJP and social media in widening the rift. He alleged that campaigns portrayed Congress as denying representation to minorities, calling the narrative misleading.

WITH BIGWIGS: CM Siddaramaiah at the Congress Working Committee meeting in New Delhi on Friday

Buzz back over CM change, cabinet rejig

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: With the bypolls out of the way, the issue of a possible change of chief minister and a cabinet rejig is set to return to the fore.

Senior MLAs aligned with CM Siddaramaiah are preparing to leave Sunday on a two-day trip to Delhi to meet Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, organisation general secretary KC Venugopal, and general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who oversees Karnataka.

The delegation, led by assembly chief whip Ashok Pattan, comprises about 20 MLAs and will press demands for ministerial positions. They expect Congress' high command to approve a cabinet reshuffle. They are also likely to urge the high command to ensure Siddaramaiah continues as CM "in the interests of the party".

Meanwhile, a section led by Channagiri MLA Basavaraj Shivaganga and aligned with deputy CM DK Shivakumar — including many first-time MLAs — are planning to revive discussions on a change of CM. Sources say Shivakumar too may meet the high command soon.

These developments come two days after home minister G Parameshwara said Siddaramaiah would continue as CM for a full five years. Siddaramaiah's supporters are also firm that he should remain CM regardless of the outcome of the Davanagere South and Bagalkot bypolls.

"Since elections in Kerala are also over, central party brass will be available in Delhi," a party member said.

However, Priyank Kharge, rural development minister, reiterated that the final decision on either a switch in chief minister or a cabinet rejig would be taken by the high command, the chief minister, and the deputy CM. He said the views of others "carry very little weight".

SHORT TAKES

High court allows job aspirants to protest

The Dharwad bench of the high court has allowed job aspirants demanding recruitment to vacant govt posts, to hold a protest but has directed them to conduct their agitation at Nehru Ground in Hubballi and limit the number of participants to 100 people. After police denied permission for a protest on April 8 in front of the deputy commissioner's office in Dharwad, job aspirants approached the high court. The petition was heard on Friday by Justice Ashok Kinagi. Police argued that an agitation at the DC's office could disrupt law and order. It was also pointed out that untoward incidents had occurred during two previous protests.

₹5 lakh relief after landslide kills three

Chief minister Siddaramaiah announced compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of three labourers killed in a landslide Thursday at a road construction site in Hulikal Ghat, Shivamogga district. The deceased have been identified as Raghavendra (37), Raju (30), and Shabbir (40). "These breadwinning lives, which were the support of their families, have been lost in this tragedy," Siddaramaiah said in a post on X. The three were employed in building a retaining wall when the landslide occurred.

No delay in internal quota: Muniyappa

Food and civil supplies minister KH Muniyappa called on all members of his SC community to register for the national census, stressing that accurate data is crucial for welfare measures. At a state executive meeting and census awareness programme, he said the govt was committed to implementing internal reservation and discussions have already been held with senior ministers. He said the issue will likely be taken up at the next cabinet meeting and urged people to remain united.

JD(S) samavesha to energise cadres

JD(S) youth state president Nikhil Kumaraswamy said the party's silver jubilee celebration will be held at Kommaghatta, on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday. He said the event will strengthen party organisation ahead of the GBA polls. He said over one lakh people were expected to attend the event, which will be inaugurated by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda. He said the convention aims to highlight JD(S) party's strength in Bengaluru.

Kumaraswamy hopes to be CM again

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Union minister HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) revealed that he hoped to become chief minister again, comments that come in the backdrop of leadership issues with alliance partner BJP.

"Though JD(S) lacked a clear majority, I became CM twice. It was because of the grace of god. I will become CM a third time, if I have god's blessings," Kumaraswamy said after visiting Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysuru Friday.

Kumaraswamy also launched a sharp attack on chief Siddaramaiah, accusing him of promoting family politics and enabling corruption through his son. He alleged Siddaramaiah introduced his son, MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, into politics "primarily to collect money". He said "govt officials across the state were aware of the extent of these alleged activities".

However, he defended the decision to bring his son, Nikhil Kumaraswamy, into politics, saying it was done in response to public demand rather than for financial gain.

SR Madhusudhan

TAKING STOCK: Union minister for steel HD Kumaraswamy with Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar at a review meeting on Friday

GOVERNOR APPROVES EVA NAMMAVA BILL

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot approved the Eva Nammava, Eva Nammava bill which proposes stringent action against those involved in killings and crimes in the name of honour and tradition.

Officially known as the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition, the bill was approved and published along with nine others including the hike in professional tax bill that collects Rs 100 extra for Feb.

The governor also gave his assent to the Karnataka Janana Bhandara Manuscripts bill which approves digitisation of manuscripts and preserving ancient history found in Karnataka.

Muniyappa: Short supply of LPG hurting livelihoods of auto drivers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Food and civil supplies minister KH Muniyappa Friday urged the central govt to "prioritise" supply of auto LPG and CNG, pointing out that shortages have hit auto drivers' livelihoods. He said three lakh of five lakh autos depend on LPG.

Recently, hundreds of auto drivers took their vehicles to Muniyappa's residence near Sanjay Nagar to inform him of the problems they are facing due to short supply of fuel.

On Friday, Muniyappa met with officials of major fuel companies — IOC, BPCL, HPCL and GAIL — and reviewed the situation. He later said the Centre has failed to supply sufficient LPG to meet the state's demand and stressed that immediate steps must be taken to ensure uninterrupted supply. But he insisted there is no cause for panic.

VK

SOME BALM: MLA Priya Krishna distributes ration kits to auto drivers in Bengaluru on Friday

He said the state is distributing whatever consignments are allocated by the Centre. "Our role is limited to distributing the fuel supplied by the Centre," he said. He said he has written to the Union petroleum minister and discussions have been held with the petroleum secretary to resolve the issue.

He also warned private firms against hiking prices above those fixed by the govt. "Action will be initiated against companies that overcharge consumers, and such firms may even be sealed," he said. He warned of "stringent legal action" against black marketing of LPG cylinders.

After close calls, K'taka mulls tracking trekkers using apps

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Days after back-to-back incidents of trekkers going missing in forest areas, Karnataka govt has moved to tighten safety protocols. It has proposed dedicated tracking apps and mandatory group insurance for trekking expeditions.

TIMES IMPACT

Forest minister Eshwar Khandre Thursday directed the principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden to frame a comprehensive standard operating procedure (SOP) for trekking activities, positioning it as a potential national model.

The move follows a series of alarming incidents, including that of Kerala-based techie GS Sharanya, who lost her way while trekking to Thadiyandamol Peak and survived in the forest for three days, and another involving a minor from Kerala, Srinandhana, who went missing during a trek in the Chandradrona mountain range (and was later found dead Friday).

Highlighting systemic gaps in the management of trekking trails, a recent **TOI** report on April 8 titled 'Into the wild, into risk' flagged key safety concerns and suggested corrective measures based on inputs from experts and conservationists. The recommendations included the use of walkie-talkies, a real-time tracking mechanism for trekkers, and a well-defined SOP for trekking expeditions.

Khandre issued instructions to the chief wildlife warden, underscoring the urgent need for a structured safety framework for visitors to the state's forests and hill ranges. "The forest department has already developed mobile apps such as e-Gastu, M-STrIPES to track foresters' activities. Similar to these apps, a tracking app can be developed and installed in trekkers' mobile phones during trekking expeditions, and this will help the department track them easily if they are left behind in the forest," the minister said in his letter.

He emphasised the need to make group insurance mandatory for trekkers and to equip nature guides with wireless communication devices such as walkie-talkies.

The minister also directed that team leaders and guides be held responsible for the safety of trekkers under their supervision. Officials have been asked to expedite the process and roll out comprehensive trekking guidelines at the earliest, with a focus on preventing mishaps and ensuring safer access to Karnataka's popular trekking destinations.

Kin noticed girl was missing only on reaching parking lot

▸ Continued from page 1

A forensic team had reached the spot and an investigation was under way.

The girl, a class 10 student, went missing during a family trip to the hilly terrain of Chikkamagaluru. She was part of a 40-member trekking team. On Tuesday, around 5.20 pm, while the rest of her family members climbed down Chandradrona, Srinandhana couldn't be traced. Family members told the cops they noticed Srinandhana was missing only upon reaching the parking lot at Manikyadhara Hills, about 150 metres from the spot where her body was eventually found.

The rescue team comprising personnel from the police, forest, fire and emergency services, and the State Disaster Response Force had a tough time retrieving the body from the 1,000-foot gorge.

Srinandhana's relatives said, soon after they realised Srinandhana was missing, they informed her parents. "Her parents were standing right above the spot from where the body was eventually traced. Even the rescue teams had scoured that area earlier, but did not notice anything," they said.

Thermal drone camera comes in handy

For the first time, a thermal drone camera dedicated to locating wild elephant s was used to trace the missing Kerala teen.Chikkamagaluru forest department has two such drone cameras at its disposal.

Backed by AI-powered night-vision imaging, thermal cameras help scan movements of humans and animals by detecting heat signatures in complete darkness, thick fog or dense forests. The drones bearing these cameras can cover an area of 4-5 sqkm, 30-40 minutes of power backup, an official said.

Food safety: Dhabas fined ₹1.4L

Bengaluru: A safety drive by the food safety department along key highway stretches Friday led to the inspection of 41 dhabas and collection of 16 legal samples. Officials imposed penalties totalling Rs 1.4 lakh for various violations.

The highest fine of Rs 85,000 was recorded along the Nelamangala-Kunigal stretch, where nine establishments were inspected. TNN

Doddajala GP's tax collection shoots up by 200% to ₹15 crore

▸ Continued from page 1

Officials point to a clear driver: Airport-led growth, rising land values, and a surge in gated communities and commercial activity. The result is a widening revenue gap between fast-urbanising fringes and interior rural regions.

Gangaraju BS, panchayat development officer of Anneshwara, said transformation has been rapid and sustained. "The area has grown quickly with new layouts and apartments. Most residents pay property tax on time, which helped us top the state," he said. He emphasised the airport's outsized role in local finances. "The airport is the major taxpayer in our panchayat. We also conduct special drives every year, which helped us collect over Rs 15.6 crore this year," Gangaraju said.

GPs WITH HIGHEST TAX COLLECTION

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Doddajala	14.9
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Sheegehalli	8.9

All figures in Rs crore | Numbers for 2025-26 year

Officials say the driver is clear: Airport-led growth, rising land values, and a surge in gated communities and commercial activity

Data shows a steady climb in Anneshwara's collections: Rs 10 crore in 2023-24, Rs 15 crore in 2024-25, and Rs 15.6 crore in 2025-26. Of this, the airport alone accounted for Rs 12.9 crore.

Neighbouring Doddajala gram panchayat posted the sharpest jump, with collections surging over 200% to Rs 15 crore this year, up from Rs 4.4 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 4.7 crore in 2024-25. Officials attribute the spike to a wave of new residential developments, particularly villa projects.

Other high-performing panchayats reflect a similar growth pattern. Kodathi collected over Rs 14.6 crore, Hennagara and Yamare over Rs 12.6 crore each, Manchanayakanahalli over Rs 12.1 crore, Halanayakanahalli over Rs 9.6 crore, Kallubalu over Rs 9.1 crore, Kumbalagodu around Rs 9 crore, and Sheegehalli about Rs 8.9 crore.

26 police officers seek confirmation of 2023 promotions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As many as 26 police officers, currently serving in the rank of superintendent of police (SP), have written to the chief secretary and the DG&IGP, requesting them to confirm their promotions as superintendents of police (SP civil non-IPS), pending since 2023. Nine other officers of SP rank retired from service without govt ever confirming their promotions.

These SPs, who joined the police force as sub-inspectors, were promoted as deputy superintendents of police (DSPs) with 30 years of service, and were confirmed as DSPs in 2015 after their departmental promotional committee approved them under Rule 42. They were promoted as SPs in Nov 2023 under Rule 32.

In Dec 2023, a few direct DSPs — police officers who clear the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) exams and join the force as DSPs — moved Karnataka

3 YEARS ON

Administrative Tribunal (KAT), challenging the gradation list. The promoted SPs approached KAT questioning the objections, and the tribunal passed orders in favour of the 35 promoted cops. It also directed govt to confirm them under Rule 42. However, govt last year approached the high court, challenging the KAT order vide writ petition. The matter is pending adjudication.

"The question is why govt is paying more attention to objections of direct DSPs and neglecting the promotions of 26 SPs. Such an example was never seen in the history of Karnataka police. Moreover, the promotions of these SPs were legally made based on a valid gradation list and according to the rules/guidelines set by govt itself. If it decides against the promotions of non-direct DSPs, it will help the direct DSPs in getting further promotions much sooner against set norms," a senior police officer said, adding, "The gradation list was not challenged in 2019 and 2021, so why now?"

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

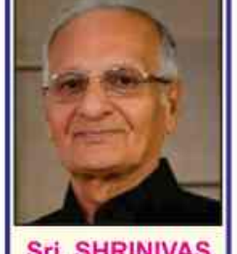
IN LOVING MEMORY ON HIS BIRTHDAY 11th APRIL

JUSTICE K BHIMIAH
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE
Karnataka High court
A NOBLE LIFE
A TIMELESS LEGACY
LOVED BEYOND WORDS
REMEMBERED FOREVER.
His loving children -
Daughter & Sons
Dr Hemavathi Kirthiraj
(Actor)
K. B. Krishnamurthy
(Ex Member of Parliament)
B. Ravindranath
(Advocate).

OBITUARY

SAD DEMISE

OBITUARY



Sri. SHRINIVAS P. DHONDALE (Advocate)
Born: 24-09-1944
Died: 10-04-2026
With profound grief, we inform his passing away and attained moksha.
Sorrowful: Wife, Children, Grand Children, Dhondale Family members, Relatives & Friends.

PHOTOS USED FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

COLLEGE DECISIONS MADE RIGHT

It's that time of year when students dive into the search for top colleges and courses. Experts advise taking the time to truly understand the student experience and campus environment before finalising any institution

Respedit.Bangalore
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In the evolving landscape of education, Karnataka remains a sought-after destination for students seeking to pursue higher education. The state offers a wide range of medicine, engineering, arts, and science courses, among others, for PUC-pass-outs to choose from. Higher education should prepare students with global competencies to successfully face the changing global scenario. This requires higher education to be innovative, creative and entrepreneurial in its approach to skill development among students. This may involve collaborating with industries, networking with the neighbour-hoods and fostering a closer relationship between the worlds of work and learning. Elaborating on the same, Dr G Venkateshan, a professor with a prominent institution, says the college education is expected to play a vital role in transforming "naïve" students into "well-rounded" adults ready to take up the challenges offered by the world. While able faculty members will impart the essential knowledge required for excelling in their studies, the campus infrastructure, peer groups and the general culture on the campus make them well-rounded citizens. "It is not an exaggeration to say that campus culture is the most crucial factor for student development. A campus with excellent sports infrastructure that incentivises students to participate in sports will create citizens with compassion and, most importantly, teach them that it's ok to fail/lose in life," he adds.

An ideal campus for the all-rounded development of the students should have the following:

- Excellent sports infrastructure and the culture of encouraging them to participate actively
- An eco-system where students can explore their interests through hobby clubs with high-quality mentoring from senior students
- Encourage students to participate in music, dance, drama etc., through clubs and healthy competitions
- Provide opportunities for the students to develop and showcase their organisational skills through various campus events

> *Over time, the percentage of people choosing engineering or arts and science courses to grab a government job has dropped. However, the real concern today is in finding a suitable job. Besides, there is a perception that the job market is shrinking as such and may become worse by the time of course completion. This narrative may not be true always*

Dr Padmini, an associate professor with a college, agrees by saying that students look for a college with a positive environment where the faculty is great, approachable and engaging with them. They also seek an institution which provides them with opportunities for self-development and a chance to stage their talents through extra-curricular activities too. Some of the other factors to be considered are the availability of good infrastructure, hygienic canteens and toilet facilities, and clean drinking water. "Nowadays, a section of informed students and parents take into account the institution's national accreditation status and ranking, which is appreciative," she notes.

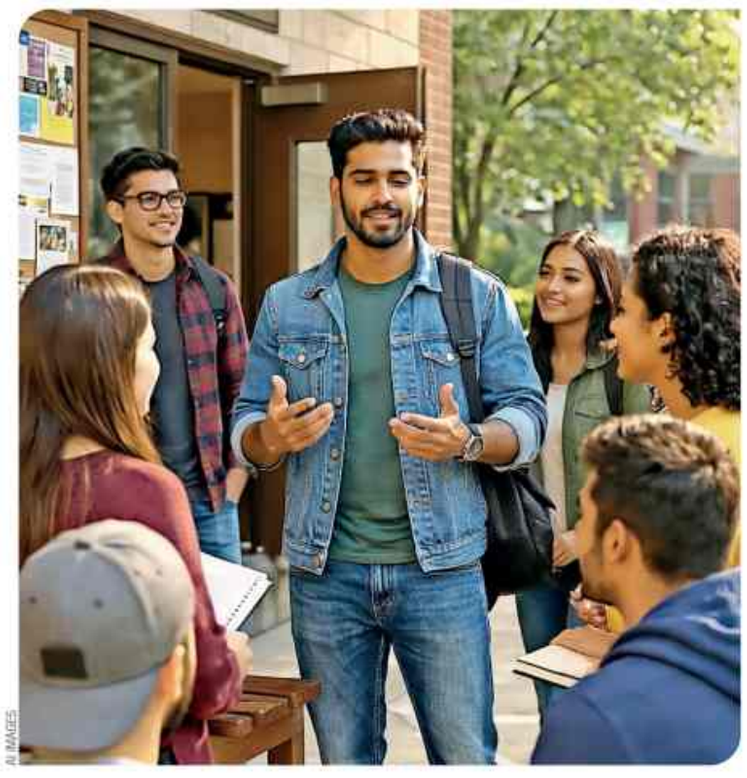
Karnataka has a solid patronage among the student community, year after year. The student life and campus culture in colleges are quite vibrant; from cultural events to sports tournaments, there is something for everyone. Though the college admission process can be quite overwhelming, but with the right guidance and support from parents, it can be managed easily, thinks education counsellor K Ganesh. According to him, students choose an institution depending on their passion, job prospects and at times out of pressure from peers and/or parents.

"Over time, the percentage of people choosing engineering or arts and science courses to grab a government job has dropped. However, the real concern today is in finding a suitable job. Besides, there is a perception that the job market is shrinking as such and may become worse by the time of course completion. This narrative may not be true always," informs the counsellor, urging students and parents to take informed decisions by taking into account the institution's reputation, teaching methodology and environment as well.

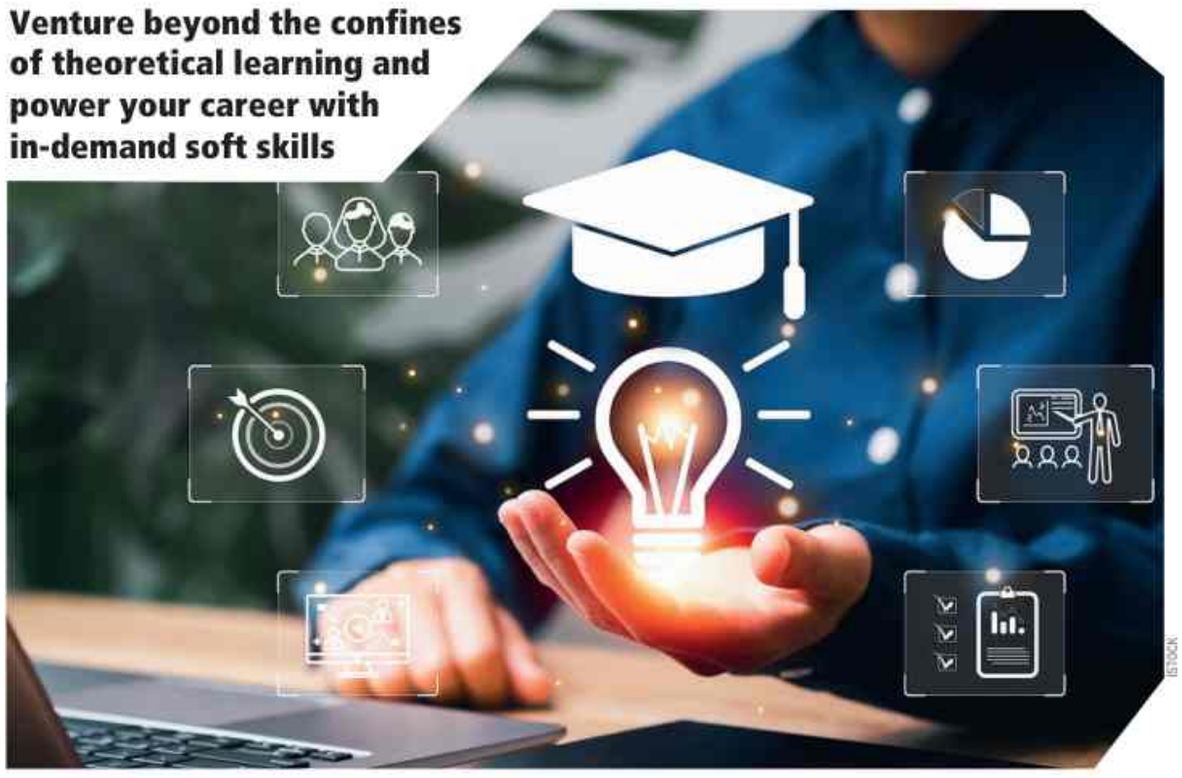
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

An institution offering a range of opportunities outside the classroom helps young learners discover their untapped potential, thereby allowing their creativity and leadership qualities to blossom and shine. "Campus culture is enriched by a set of student activities like sports and cultural programmes, which inculcate the spirit of healthy competition and teach them to build bonds with fellow students from other disciplines and regions. All these attributes come in handy when they take to working in any field," says Prabhakar, a parent.

In short, experts say that students learn major life lessons outside their classrooms through their peers.. Hence, having a great campus environment enhances their ability to excel professionally and personally. Choosing a college is an important decision for students and their parents. It is not just about selecting the one with best academic programmes, but also about understanding the campus culture and student life that will shape the student's future.


AI IMAGES

Venture beyond the confines of theoretical learning and power your career with in-demand soft skills


ISTOCK

Level up or lose out

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We are living in a world striving to become better and smarter each day. Technological advancements have also grown by leaps and bounds in the last few years. Furthermore, the increasing use of intelligent technology has made the job landscape more volatile for young aspirants, necessitating individuals to develop relevant skills at an early age.

SOFT SKILLS REIGN SUPREME

It's imperative to pick colleges and institutes that impart and equip students with the right training. Before making the selection, ask yourself, 'Does the college still emphatically focus on traditional rote learning methods or groom students to succeed in a fiercely competitive job market?' Mukta Joshi, a counsellor and personality development trainer, notes, "Soft skills are extremely important in today's world, where collaboration and human resources have come to the forefront. They are essential to improving one's ability to work seamlessly with others."

BEYOND ROTE LEARNING

Traditionally, teachers and professors have spent a great part of their time and efforts to make students memorise facts and figures. In an age when information is easily accessible to everyone, we ought to set a better standard for measuring one's learning instead of focusing on the ability to cram for the exams. Highlighting the downside of colleges that prioritise rote learning, Dr Swati Vijay, an edupreneur and child psychologist, elaborates, "Such institutes don't prepare one for real-world scenarios. Inadequate comprehension is a direct outcome of memorising information. On the other hand, one must be encouraged to understand the concepts and subjects in a way that makes them relate to their own experiences. After all, in a hyper-digital world, success requires a lot more than just scoring good grades.

> *Soft skills are extremely important in today's world, where collaboration and human resources have come to the forefront. They are essential to improving one's ability to work seamlessly with others*

PRIORITISE INTERNSHIPS

Colleges and universities typically change their curriculum at a glacial pace, while change is constantly taking place in industries across the board. Adarsh Khandelwal, a career guidance specialist, encourages students to develop skills beyond attending classes and scoring good marks in exams. "Use your spare time to develop leadership skills (for example, run for student club positions), get involved in voluntary organisations, network with your peers, get to know your faculty, and secure internships." Hence, look for universities and colleges that offer such practical opportunities.

Khandelwal also notes that students must focus on developing capabilities like analytical thinking, problem identification and solving, time management, adaptability, capacity for collaboration, and effective written and oral communication. "Seek admission into institutes that equip you to become digitally literate, given that we are transitioning to a tech-first world and increasingly relying on data to make decisions," he suggests.

Ultimately, by selecting colleges that prepare you with skills for the ever evolving job market, you can lay the groundwork for a promising future. Skills like critical thinking, creativity and collaboration are becoming more valued by employers."

Good grades open doors, but they aren't everything. As the race for top colleges intensifies, students who miss their "perfect" match should remember that there are many paths to success worth exploring

AI IMAGE

THINK BEYOND GRADES

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The PUC results are out, and we have celebrated those who scored good marks. Well, kudos to them. But we also have many students who did not score too high, scored below expectations, and could not crack their exams. Whatever the outcome, this is the time to keep cool and look ahead. PUC exams are definitely a turning point in a student's life, but this is definitely not the end of the world. Whatever the results are, all that is needed right now is to own it bravely.

Psychologists, counsellors and NGOs working for the mental health of students are worried about the rise in depression, stress, low selfesteem and suicide among students. Increasing competition is to be blamed as the aspiration index reaches an all-time high during the result season. This is followed by the harrowing time one faces while securing admission in a prestigious college.

PARENTAL AND PEER PRESSURE

"Parents these days are never happy; low acceptance level is the main reason for stress. Parents' anxiety often leads to an undercurrent of tension in the family," says Dr Harish Shetty, a psychologist who has long worked with Indian students facing depression. "We need to understand that there is a difference between a degree and a career. Parents need to invest in nurturing logical aspirations in children," says Shetty, pointing out that many parents aspire to make their ward a computer engineer because the child enjoys computer games.

"Students these days are under immense invisible mental tension, due to peer as well as family pressure. It's a myth that mediocre students remain under stress; a large number of meritorious students remain tense as they have to live up to the expectations of the parents and the teachers," says Padma Rewari, psychotherapist and a student counsellor.

HAVING A PLAN B

Parents and students must have a plan B, which can help them look for alternative options."PU institutions should have programmes on stress management and mental well-being for the students. We must not forget that many parents do not take note of their kids' mental well-being till it is very late," says Rewari.

Though marks seem to be a big deal during college level, one finds it has a limited role to play in one's real/practical life.

> *It's a myth that mediocre students remain under stress; a large number of meritorious students remain tense as they have to live up to the expectations of the parents and the teachers*

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Arindam Sen, a banker turned founder of a mental wellness app that works for the stress management of college students, says the best way to deal with this situation is by making students realise that marks and results are overrated. "We often come across cases of toppers, who end up doing something insignificant, while many students passionate about their skills and inherent talent go ahead and shine," says Sen.

He cites an example of one of his classmates from St Columba's School, who was a spirited guitarist, now a known music composer. "Everyone remembers him as the 'boy with a guitar'. No one is bothered about his scores in the board exams, and no one really cares."

Sen has been working with college-going students and helps them in identifying the stress level that usually stems from several factors. "We conduct regular interactive sessions to break the stress on the micro-levels. Most students suffer due to peer pressure, family pressure, lack of self-confidence and finally lack of preparation. Our job is to address these problems and help them," notes Sen.

While the maddening rush to seek admission in one of the prominent colleges will continue for some time, those who do not find the right fit should look for other options. Good grades are not the key to long-term success. Marks matter, but just a little.

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

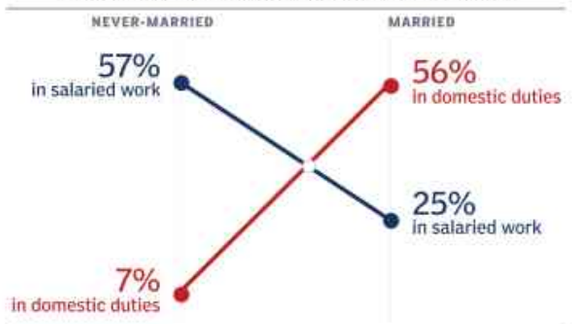
NEED TO BOOST WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION FOR GREATER ROLE IN POLICY & LAW-MAKING: OM BIRLA

DELHI L-G SANDHU SAYS NARCO-TERROR NO LONGER DISTANT THREAT, CALLS FOR STRONGER APPROACH TO TACKLE IT

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

For most women graduates, marriage ends career

Among women aged 25-34 with a college degree, marriage is often linked to leaving paid work for domestic duties



Urban women, college degree, in salaried households. Descriptive, not causal.
Source: PLFS 2024, MoSP

10 dead after boat with Pjb pilgrims sinks in UP

Five Missing, 22 Rescued So Far

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KK Studio

Police conduct a rescue op at Keshighat, near Vrindavan in Mathura district on Friday

Mathura: A boat carrying 37 pilgrims mostly from Punjab's Ludhiana collided with a pontoon bridge and capsized in Yamuna river near Keshighat in Mathura district on Friday, leaving 10 dead, including seven women, and at least five missing. Twenty-two people have been rescued so far and search operation is on to trace the others, police said.

The incident took place between 3 and 3.30pm in Vrindavan when the pilgrims were on a visit to religious sites in Mathura-Vrindavan area. They had arrived on April 9.

According to local residents, the group of devotees boarded the motorised boat at the iconic Keshighat for a river ride. Shortly after setting off, the boat lost balance, throwing all passengers into the water. Eyewitnesses said chaos broke out at the ghat as people screamed for help. Tanish Jain, a survivor, said, "Our boat hit a bridge-like structure and overturned. Local boat operators came to our rescue. Most of us are from Ludhiana."

Rescue teams, including police teams and disaster response units, soon arrived. A fire service team, divers and boatmen along with NDRF and SDRF teams were also pressed into action. A senior colonel said that an Army team was called in too.

Mathura district magistrate CP Singh told TOI, "A large group of 132 people had come from Ludhiana to Mathura for 'darshan' in two buses. A few of them from that group came here. Those who have been rescued, 22 of them, are out of danger. The CM has directed us to launch a probe and take action against those guilty. Medicine or treatment should be provided free of cost."

Meanwhile, in a post on X, the PMO quoted PM Narendra Modi as saying, "Deeply pained by the mishap due to the capsizing of a boat in Mathura. My condolences to those who have lost their near and dear ones. Local administration is assisting those affected." UP CM Yogi Adityanath has also expressed condolences and instructed authorities to provide appropriate compensation.

Gaganyaan mission: Isro completes 2nd integrated air-drop test

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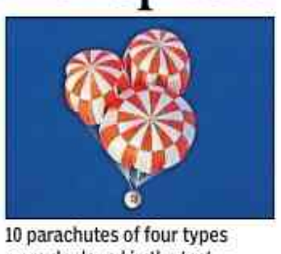
@timesofindia.com



10 parachutes of four types were deployed in the test

Bengaluru: After back-to-back launch failures of PSLV and a quiet few months, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) Friday successfully completed the second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02), a critical test as part of preparations for Gaganyaan missions.

"IADT-02 for Gaganyaan mission was successfully conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on April 10... A simulated crew module, weighing 5.7 tonnes, that is equivalent to the mass of the crew module planned in the first un-crewed Gaganyaan mission (G1), was lifted by an Indian Air Force chinook helicopter to an altitude of 3km and released over a designated drop zone in sea, near Sriharikota coast," Isro said.

IADT-02, a follow-up test of IADT-01 conducted on Aug 24, 2025, was expected much earlier. Compared to IADT-01's 5 tonnes, Friday's test saw an increased mass of the crew module (5.7 tonnes). "This was important because we wanted to bring the module's mass close to what would be used in the un-crewed missions. All parametres of the test were on expected lines, and we will now focus on other tests that need to be done," Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre's director A Rajarajan told **TOI**.

During the test, Isro said, 10 parachutes of four types were deployed during the descent of the crew module, gradually reducing the velocity for safe touchdown. "Subsequently, the simulated crew module was successfully recovered in coordination with the Indian Navy. The IADT-02 test validated the parachute-based deceleration systems in the crew module," Isro added.

IT firm's HR official held for abetting sexual harassment

Nashik: The SIT probing nine sexual offence cases against six employees of an IT firm in Nashik on Friday arrested an assistant general manager (AGM-HR). She has been charged with abetting sexual harassment of an employee by two of her six arrested colleagues by ignoring her complaint.

A local court her in police custody till April 13. Five of the other arrested employees, who are facing charges of sexual harassment and hurting religious sentiments, were sent to judicial custody for 14 days in two of the cases. Police are looking for one more accused in the case. TNN

BSF constable killed in Naga-Kuki crossfire

Donald Sairem | TNN

Imphal: A BSF constable was killed after being struck by a bullet during an exchange of fire between armed groups in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday. Bengal native Mithun Mandal, 34, was on patrol in Mongkot Chepu area when he was hit on the left shoulder amid gunbattles between Tangkhul Naga and Kuki groups around 5pm. He was rushed to Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal and died there.

CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh condemned the attack. "In this hour of profound grief, my thoughts and prayers are with them. May the Almighty grant them the strength and fortitude to endure this irreparable loss," he wrote in a post.

Khemchand hailed Mandal, saying he "served the nation with unwavering courage, dedication, and a deep sense of duty... His supreme sacrifice in the line of duty will always be remembered with the highest honour and gratitude."

Earlier in the day, Khemchand visited Senapati district by road via Kangpokpi, marking the symbolic reop-ening of NH-2. The route had remained inaccessible to people from Imphal valley, especially the Meitei community, since the ethnic unrest erupted in the state in May 2023.

The state govt also extended suspension of mobile internet in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur districts.

Oppn to meet before Parl session on women's quota

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A meeting of opposition parties has been convened on April 15 to forge a common stand on govt's proposed amendments to the women's reservation law, with Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Friday deciding on joint strategy for the "special session" of Parliament from April 16-18.

The committee struck a strident note against the move to delink Census 2026 and delimitation from the quota measure, and also accused BJP of trying to sabotage "caste census" and of seeking to influence the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal elections by scheduling the Parliament sitting during the poll campaign period.

During the special session, it is anticipated that the opposition may move amendments to the govt proposal, which is not known yet, which may lead to a deadlock. The govt needs the support of the opposition to pass the constitutional amendment. Sonia Gandhi is learnt to have cautioned that Congress should not be seen to be opposing it.

CDS: Services in total consensus on integrated theatre commands

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ANI

CDS General Anil Chauhan said in Bengaluru Friday that the reform is a big step

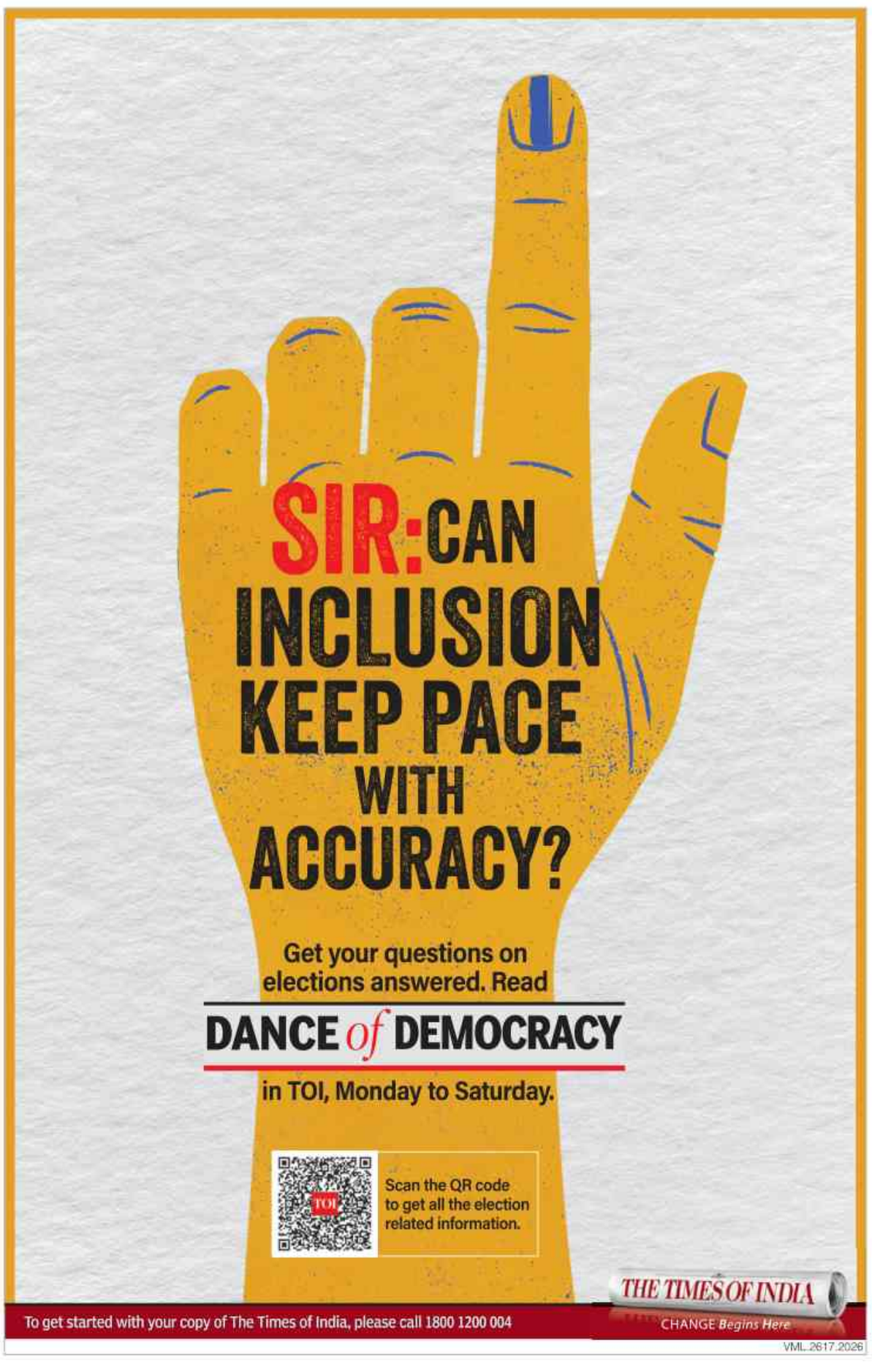
Bengaluru: India's push towards integrated theatre commands has cleared its most critical hurdle — agreement in principle among the three services — but key questions on structure, sequencing, and organization are still being worked out, chief of defence staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan said Friday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a seminar — Ran Samvad 2026 — in the city, Chauhan described the reform as "a big step", noting that Army, Navy, and Air Force are aligned on the core idea of separating force generation from force application.

"There is total consensus on the concept," he said, adding that details like command locations, structure and sequencing "can be resolved during implementation" and are not cast in stone.

The new joint headquarters will integrate operations, intelligence and logistics under a single structure. Existing regional commands will continue under theatre commands for operations while remaining linked to service headquarters for administrative purposes. Army's proposed Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs), Chauhan clarified, are entirely separate, aimed at making ground combat units more agile and are unrelated to the theatre command framework.

On multi-domain operations, the theme of "Ran Samvad", Chauhan gave a more expansive view than doctrine currently reflects. He argued that warfare has moved beyond physical domains into synthetic and cognitive realms, where shaping public perception can achieve political objectives without firing a shot — pointing to current conflicts where battlefield dominance has not translated into clear political outcomes.



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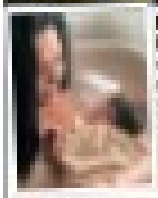
Lakeside Campus: Off Hennur-Bagalur Main Road, Chagalahatti, Bengaluru – 562 149
City Campus: #2, 3rd Cross, 6th A Main, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru – 560 043
OMBR Campus: #5, Bhuvanagiri, OMBR Layout, Bengaluru – 560 043
CMRIT Campus: #132, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru - 560 037

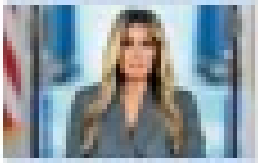
WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY



Bandeep Hooda, Lin Laishram reveal daughter's name a month after birth

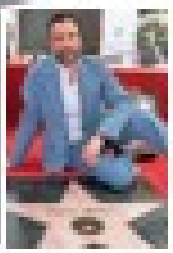
Bombay High Court restrains filmmaker from accusing Aditya Jibar of script theft

Melania Trump denies links to Jeffrey Epstein



Philomena Cunk returns with 'Cunk on Cinema'

Noah Wyle unveils his star on the Hollywood's Walk of Fame



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EXPERIENCE GRAND
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Beautiful BLDC Fans
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Luxus C5
Meridian M1
Arctis A8
Saves Electricity...as well
Price Range: ₹2500 to ₹20000

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clients have agreed to develop and sell the Property described in Schedule herein, owned by **Sri. Y. NAGARAJ** Also known as **NAGARAJA YELLAPPA REDDY**, Son of Late Sri. D. Yellappa. No.100, Susheela Road, Near Maramma Temple, Doddamavalli, Bangalore – 560 004, who has represented that he purchased the Schedule Property from his vendors Sri.M.Muthuswamy, Smt.Bharathi and Sri.M.Raghu in terms of a Sale Deed dated 05/03/2016 registered as Document No.4744/2015-16 in Book-I and stored in C.D.No.SRJD191, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi (Sarjapur), Bangalore and his family members, have agreed to join the transaction. Persons objecting for the proposed development and sale or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Seven **(7) days** from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the title of landowners as mentioned in relation to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no other person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections, if any, which are not received within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and will proceed to develop and sell the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that Property measuring 00 Acre 01 Gunta in Sy.No.96/15 (Old Sy.No.96/6) of Thigala Chowdadenahalli Village, Sarjapur-3 Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded by:

East : Road;
West : Property in Sy.No.96/1 belonging to Y Nagaraj and his sisters;
North : Remaining portion of Property belonging to Sri.Muthuswamy; and
South : Remaining portion of Property belonging to Sri.Muthuswamy.

Sri. KUSUMA R. MUNIRAJU,
Sri. KUSUMA KAUSHIK,
Advocates,
101, "EDEN PARK",
No. 20, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bengaluru -560 001.
Tel: 080-22217971.
Bangalore Date: 10/04/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clients have agreed to develop and sell the Property described in Schedule herein, owned by **Sri. R. MUNISWAMY**, Son of Sri. H. M. Ramachandra Reddy, No.413/1, Near Government Hospital, Varthur, Bangalore–560 087, who has represented that he purchased the Schedule Property under a Sale Deed dated 17/07/1993 registered as Document No.672/1993-94 in Book-I, Volume-1736 at Pages 32 to 34, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal and his family members, have agreed to join the transaction. Persons objecting for the proposed development and sale or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Seven **(7) days** from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the title of landowners as mentioned in relation to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no other person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections, if any, which are not received within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and will proceed to develop and sell the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that Property measuring 00 Acre 11 Guntas in Sy.No.100 of Thigala Chowdadenahalli Village, Sarjapur-3 Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded by:

East : Private Property;
West : Property belonging to Sri.Papaiah and his brothers;
North : Road; and
South : Property in Sy No. 108/2 belonging to Sri. Y. Nagaraj and Family.

Sri. KUSUMA R. MUNIRAJU,
Sri. KUSUMA KAUSHIK,
Advocates,
101, "EDEN PARK",
No. 20, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bengaluru -560 001.
Tel: 080-22217971.
Bangalore Date: 10/04/2026

TENDERS

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank

UNION BANK OF INDIA
Procurement Department,
1st Floor, Union Bank Bhavan, 239 Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021

TENDER NOTICE

Union Bank of India invites vendors for following items. **GeM Bid No – GEM/2026/B/7430753 Dated 09.04.2026. Item/Job Description** – Engagement of Vendor for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning Of Display Units for Centralised Command And Risk Mitigation Centre Location at MS Marg, Mumbai. **Pre-bid Meeting: 16.04.2026 11:00 hours. Bid End Date/Time – 30.04.2026 16:00 hours.** For other details and downloading of bid document, please visit Government e-Market Place (GeM) portal **https://gem.gov.in** for participation in the tender.

SBI Payment Services Private Limited
23rd Floor, Urmi Estate, C.S. No. 156 of Lower Parel Division, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai - 400013

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SBI Payments has issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) for Rate contract of Laptops. For details please visit the website of SBI Payments: **www.sbipayments.com** Any further Addenda, Corrigenda / Extension of date / clarifications in respect to the above RFP shall only be posted on SBI Payments website and no separate notification will be issued in newspaper.

Sd/-
Vice President
Place: Mumbai
Date: 11.04.2026 (Vendor Management)

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

AIRPORT ROAD

FOR SALE NORTH BANGALORE LUXURY VILLA PLOT in a Gated Community Jade Garden Phase-2

BEFORE AIRPORT Toll, Near Prestige Tech Cloud 9550 Sq Feet, North Facing Plot Contact – 98440 66371

ANJANAPURA

SEMI-COMMERCIAL Site 40x60 Anjanapura 7th Blk N/F 40ft Road Near BDA Complex & Central Park 30x40 Site 7th Blk Anjanapura S/F ct: 99809 78986.

BDA WEST FACING 60X40 Site for Sale at 8th Block Anjanapura, Excellent Location. Contact Owner: 9742279762 (Brokers Excuse)

WANTED Anjanapura Banashankari 6th Stage JP Nagar Near Kanakapura Road Any Measurement Immediate Settlement Call: 9964627255

BANASHANKARI

DUPLEX HOUSE FOR SALE, EAST FACE, North Facing Door, BSK 6th Stage 2nd Block Contact : 99804 76925

WANTED SITES
Urgently Required Residential 40x60 & 50x80 Sites at Banashankari 2nd stage, 3rd Stage & Jayanagar Good locations

WANTED 40X60, 50x80 Residential Site BSK 2nd, 3rd Stage, Jayanagar Genuine Owners Contact: 9019533999/ 9900275599

WANTED-BDA-SITES IN BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE/ ANJANAPURA IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT . CALL : 9343668888 / 9535575774.

WANTED BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE 30x40 ANY FACE, DIRECT REGISTRATION. SELLERS IMMEDIATELY CALL : MANOJ - 9731410616

SALE BDA Site 2500sft, W/F BSK 6th Stage 4th T Blk Front 40ft Road, No Rear Side construction Good ventilation, close to metro station ct: 92431 02949.

BANNERGHATTA ROAD

READY TO OCCUPY 2400 SFT, 4 BHK, FULLY FURNISHED LUXURY FLATS EAST FACING, ONE UNIT PER FLOOR. 99868 64000

OR FULL Building with 4 Units of 4 BHK & 2 Shops on Ground flr.Teak, Italian Marble, Jacuzzi, Gym, Cauvry Water & E Khata.

BENSON TOWN

PENTHOUSE ready to move 4.5BHK, 5bathroom, 3balcony +terrace, 3500 Sqft, 5.5Cr @ Benson Town, 2km Cnngham, 8088330330 www.govianu.com

BIDADI

BIDADI BMRDA Approval Gated Community 35x50 and 40x60 Site For immediately SALE ONLY 2700 square ready To Construction ct: 97314 66365.

BTM LAYOUT

SALE 4 BHK Duplex Flat 2500 sqft Price 2.85cr BTM MICO LAYOUT POSH LOCATION CALL: 98459 22769

COOKE TOWN

SALE: Plot Area 1840 Sft. In Chennakeshva Layout, Near CMR National Public School HRBR 2.5 Cr, & 3 BHK Flat (Re-Sale) 1500 Sft in Cooke Town 1.05 Cr " Nest Realtors " 9844057974 / 99452 72244.

CUNNINGHAM ROAD

PRESTIGE KENILWORTH Apt Unused spacious 3 BR flat 3500 sqft with servant quarter & 2 car parking, all amenities for sale. Rs.12 Cr. 98450-07176

CV RAMAN NAGAR

5BHK Villa near Indiranagar, 4800 sq.ft., pvt.lift, pvt. gym, terrace garden, 1cr worth Interiors. Sale @ 8.3cr. Contact 9886523078 (Owner)

DEVANAHALLI

FARM HOUSE 21780 Sqft (½ Acre) For SALE (Proposed) ₹ 1950/- Sqft DEVANAHALLI PROPERTY WORLD BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS 9731308328 / 9743395619

FARM HOUSE with Compound wall, Gate, Plantation Etc. Near International Airport 9731308328/ 9743395619

2 Acres To 50 Acres Agriculture & Conversion Clear Title Lands Around Devanahalli Doddaballpura Nandi Hills Chikkaballapur Available For Immediate Sale. Call: 9164565566

22000 sqft land for sale in devanahalli (very near to international airport) 14 crores. strictly no brokers. Unique Realty #09884289348

DEVANAHALLI GODREJ RESERVE PLOT FOR SALE 3000 SQFT. WEST FACING CONTACT-RAVINDRANTH - 9916686663

DOLLARS COLONY

3BHK, 2000 SQFT Luxury High end Flat for Sale, DOLLARS COLONY. Please Contact: 8088330330. www.govianu.com

HBR LAYOUT

HIGH RETURNS Property Enarch North West HBR(BDA) 5th Blk stilt + 3Bhk flats- 4 no's Newly built ready to occupy Nr Manyata tech park & Ring rd. Call : 98450-07163 / 99723-70494

HEBBAL

SPACIOUS 5000 Sqft 4 BHK furnished Villa with exclusive elevator available for rent in Godrej-17, Hebbal, 3 Car park & Servant Ph: 9880223669

PRESTIGE MISTY WATERS Luxurious semi furn 2, 2.5 & 3BHK Apts for sale. Rs.1.60cr onwards. Prime location. All amenities. Citilines 97414-17120

HENNUR

HENNUR 30X50 SITES FOR SALE 12500/Sqft PROPERTY WORLD BUILDER & DEVELOPERS 9731308328 / 9743395619

1200 & 1500Sqft BBMP Resi Sites for Sale 12500/Sqft Property World Builders & Developers. 9731308328/ 9743395619

SITE for Sale 9300 sqft, North Facing, 10000/-psqft (Nego), Near Byrathi Suresh House, Doddaguddi Road, Prime location, 9448255072/ 9448492681

HOSUR ROAD

WANTED 500 PG Rooms/ 1BHKs for 9-year Rental For: Pan-India brand

IN ELECTRONIC City 1st Phase/ Near Software Offices Ready to Move in / Build-to-suit options. Call: 9980077897

URGENT SALE!!! SHOBA MANHATTAN TOWN PARK, Brand new 3BHK 1498sqft with 1 car park, Premium Amenities for Sale. Call : 98450-07176

HSR LAYOUT

HSR BDA SITE'S FOR SALE 5200Sq.ft. N/W Corner 6000Sq.ft. N/E Corner 50 x 80 SITE North Sector-3,4 40 x 60 SITE West Sector-3,4

40X60 DUPLEX House Sector - 4 / 30 x 40 Duplex House Sector- 1 Lakshmi Dheeraj Realty 9972706109/9611689310

FOR SALE Brand new House on 40x60 BDA site. Direct Owner, off 5th main 7th sector, 40ft road HSR Layout. all spacious & furnished with 5 cars Parking Call:9845509093.

HSR Layout, Sale 30x40 Duplex House, 40x60 3 Floor House and Commercial Rental Incom Building for Sale.broker excuse. Call: +91 98431 94932

INDIRA NAGAR

COMMERCIAL PLOTS/ TENANTED BUILDINGS INDIRANAGAR HRBR-RT NAGAR

2,000-5,000 SFT PRICE 8 CR ONWARDS FALCON 98454 47868/ 98450 61345

TO-LET For Rent. 3BHK Flat Jevanbemanagar close nal Indiranagar NPS school. Rent. 50 K + Maintenance Negotiable. Mob : 98860 36784 / 93411 20395.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AROUND

REQUIRED 2 to 3 Guntas Land with or without House

FOR PURCHASE in SADAHALLI (BANGALORE NORTH). Owners May Directly Contact : 9986277447

JAKKUR

FOR SALE Semi Commercial East Facing 5000 Sft PLOT A Katha

NEXT TO Arkavathi Layout, Chokkanahalli, Rate 10,500/- Per Sq.ft. Contact Owner: 9886400201 / 9341257059

3BHK- 3Bath, CENTURY Horizon 1650ft North facing Flat for Sale Amenities Opp to Jakkur Aerodrome, Price 2.3Cr Nego Call: 81233 11976

JAYANAGAR

For SALE JAYANAGAR 8TH BLOCK PRIME 80x120 PLOT ON 80 FEET ROAD - E khata - BDA Clear titles BATHIJA ESTATES 91089 50006

JAYNAGAR 8TH blk prime 80x120 Plot 80ft Rd BDA Clear titles BATHIJA Estates. :bathijaestates@gmail.com.

JAYANAGAR 6th Block - Ready to Move Soon 2 BHK Flat is at Prime Residential Location for 1.20cr & 85 Lakhs. Contact : 9663233353

JAYANAGAR 4th Block 3BHK For Rent and Lease Location: Very Near to Metro Station and Ganesha Temple Contact: 99165 11166

SALE 4 BHK Apartment Brand New 4th 'T' Block Jayanagar Near BES College Excellent Location Contact: 96118 44667 / 81235 15830

JP NAGAR

Grand villa style entryway to Vastu aligned apartment with a balinese inspired gardens. 3 BHK starts from 1.45 Cr*

PRIVATE VARANDA Space, RERA APPROVED, with 60+ Amenities. 800 meters to Silk Institute metro, Kanakapura road & Nice Road, Ct: 9743859000

FOR SALE: New Grand Duplex House in JP Nagar 8th Phase, EF - 4 Flrs 3600 Sqft Built Up Area with Lift and 2 Car Parking + Rentals 45K, Price: 2.77 Cr. Call: 91489 45717.

KANAKAPURA ROAD

MERITUS Bluescapes. 2100sft Exclusive 3BHK Flats. Each Floor 1 Unit 3 Balconies, 3 wash rooms &Incl-car parking 1.8Cr Call/WhatsApp- 9606722495.

KENGERI

BBMP "A" KATHA SITES FOR SALE @KENGERI, 500 MTR FROM METRO STATION WITH CAUVERY WATER CL.9606342643 BROKER EXCL

NADPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, 7TH BLOCK BDA PLOT 40 X 60 - 2400 SQFT FOR SALE KP Realty 8095963647

@RS. 8250/SQFT. 40 x 60 BDA Plot @ 7th Block Kommagatta. Behind Challagatta Metro Station. Call - KP Realty 8095963647

KORAMANGALA

AMAZING 4 BHK for sale at G Corp Residences, 3 Balconies, 2 car parks. Corner apartment. Contact "Prime Properties" 9845079698

FOR Sale Comm Buildings Budget upto 50 Cr and Resi 10,000 Sft property and also req comm plots and Buildings all over BLore M:81055-42424

MG ROAD & AROUND

For Sale EV Two Wheeler Show Room

OCCUPANCY IN Sri Balaji Motors EV Showroom @ Kamraj Road Bangalore contact - 9980797111/ 7483357234

URGENT SALE!!! RAHEJA TOWER NORTH FACING Bare shell, 4200sqft with 5 car parking space for Sale. Rs.10 crores. Call : 98450-07176

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

SALE Comml/ Residential Property 50x70, 60x100, 50x80, 80x120 Jayanagar, Modi Hospital, R.T.Ngr, Bellary Main Rd, Manyata Main rd. 9845004307

SITES & Lux Apts with CC/ OC at Indiranagar, BTM, BSK Temple Rd, Hennur, Marathahalli, Soukya Road, Whitefield, Hoskote 9986090661 / 9036601934

MYSORE ROAD

RUNNING PG BUILDING FOR SALE 50 Rooms 4 Floors Present Rent 3.50,000/- Next to Pattanagere Metro Station

TO THIS Building 100 Feet only, Land area 9500 sq ft Buildup area 15000 sqft, No Brokers Buyer only Contact :7483442482

NAGARBHAVI

3BHK FLAT for sale Near Nagarabhavi BDA Complex, Annapurneshari layout, 93 lakh. Call 9980941666, 9036905565

30X40 North facing site @ Srigandhakaval 'D' group layout, Nagarbhavi for Sale with bank loan. More details Rajendra Prasad - 9945103785

NELMANGALA

SITE FOR SALE 40X60, S/F Adarsh Nagar, 30 Feet Road, Arishinakunte Good Location, 4800/- per Sqft, Negotiable Contact: 7026500097

RERA Approved PLOTS
Mysore, Hubli, Haveri
Near likely Airport
Nelamangala
Starting @ Rs.1599/sqft
Farm Plots Rs. 599/sqft
For Special Offer and Free Visit Contact
9916 356 000

OMBR LAYOUT

BDA Plot For Sale, Corner Site OMBR Layout, Total Area 6125Sqft East Facing, 5th Main Road, 60 Feet Main Road. Contact: 9986071243, 7090594594

OMBR LYT 2BHK Flat for sale Ready to Move kitchen cabinet & Wardrobe vasthu E aasthi done. Near Sky line apt. 1 car parking 81.9L, Ph: 9632296279

OUTER RING ROAD

Resurgent Spaces
Adarsh Lake Front RMZ Ecoworld 3.5 bhk Super Premium Lake facing 2212sft 4.75Cr 9886078045

PEENYA

2SITES Immediate Sale 80ftx100ft in Hegganahalli Cross Bangalore A&E Katha Bore Well , Brick Wall Fenced Contact: 9900287834/ 9448377834

RAJAJI NAGAR

PURVA BLUBELLE Adjacent to Magadi Road Metro station RAJAJINAGAR 3 BHK & Exclusive 5 BHK Flats + Servant Room with all luxurious Amenities, Only few units left for Sale Call Owner : 9844027560.

3BHK, Pre-launch, 2000 Sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, Rajajinagar main road near Navrang theatre. Phone 8088330330. www.govianu.com

RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR

6300 sq ft Land for Sale Beside Swarga Rani School Call for details : +91 75340 90909

RICHMOND TOWN

FOR SALE INDEPENDENT COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDING @RICHMOND TOWN Built-up Area: 15000 Sq. Ft KP REALTY 8095963647

INDIVIDUAL OFFICE Building for Sale. Plot area : 3700 sqft. Built-up Area: 15000 sqft. (G+4 Flr) Cont - KP Realty – 80959 63647

RMV EXTENSION

READY-TO-MOVE-IN 2&3 BHK Flats at Nagashettyhalli, RMV 2nd Stage,OC OBTAINED Call: 63623 77418

SAHAKARA NAGAR

NEW FULL-APARTMT BLDG For Sale 7.50 Crs., 13,000 sqft - 9 Apt's (2 & 4 BHK's). Built-up on 2400 sft site, Ideal for Rentl. Incom, Service Apartments Corporate Guest House. 1.5 km from. Hebbal Flyover. Near SAHAKAR NAGAR. OWNER- 98800-53505.

FOR RENT 5 BHK VILLA GATED COMMUNITY EAST FACING With 4 car park private garden 1 LAC/month + maintenance PH: 9880696967

SARJAPUR ROAD

SARJAPUR Road Reliable Lifestyle 50x55, Shubh Enclave 30x50, Sunny Brooks 30x50, Green Villa 40x60, Address Makers 40x60 Sale: 74118 96696

FOR SALE LUXURY FLAT
August Grand, Sarjapur Road
3 BHK, 2669 Sq. Ft. for Sale
Contact: 9741301884

SESHADRIPURAM

3BHK & 4BHK Luxury High-end Flats for Sale at Seshadripuram, 5min from Mantri Mall, Contact 8088330330, www.govianu.com

SHANTI NAGAR

WANTED 4 BHK FLAT for Purchase

IN CENTRAL BANGALORE. Preferably New Construction. Owners May Directly Contact : 9986277447

ULSOOR

LAND for sale 1419 sft at No. 2, 3rd Cross, Car Street, Halasuru, Bangalore. Good location. Price Rs. 20,000 per sft slightly nego. Call: 9845298166

UTTARAHALLI

SALE: 40x60 2 Sites S & SE facing With building, Chikkallasandra- Uttarahalli Anjaneyaswamy HBCS Rs. 19000/ Sft Contact: 98808-36063

VARTHUR

1350SFT North West Facing Comml Site for sale, with E Khatha, Further from Varthur Sub Register Office contact - 99809 88788

VIDYARANYAPURA

SAMBRAM College Nr Amba Bhavani Temple Back Side 30x40, 37.5x40 wf BBMP B/E Kata, 40x60 wf Best county2, DC Conversion A/E K: 82968 95858

WANTED COMMERCIAL LAND / LAND PARCEL FOR PURCHASE
1. Commercial Land- 8000-20000 Sqft CBD ONLY
2. Land Parcel - 5-50 Acres In & Around Chikkaballapura, Doddaballapura & Hoskote
Contact - 8660238282
(Between10 am-6 pm)

VIJAYA NAGAR

INDEPENDENT House 3BHK, 40*50/2000Sft, South East Corner, Near Sobha Hospital,Off Pategarpalya Main Road.99868 64000

OLD House Sale (40x60) in Chandra Layout BDA East Facing Excellent Location Close To Purple Metro Rs 6.70 Cr. Nego Contact: 6364003399

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

COMMERCIAL BDA SITE FOR SALE 1). Vishveshwaraiah Lyt nr Sukha Brew Restaurant 2900 Sqft Commercial BDA Site for sale 2). Vishveshwaraiah Lyt 8th Block Attached

NORTH FACE 30X42 BBMP A Katha Muddanapalya circle DC conversion Bank Loan Documents Contact: 90666 17555

BDA SITE FOR SALE @ NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT

40X60 Semi Commercial, 50x80 Commercial 300 feet road and 163x100 BDA Single Plan "11A"Katha Site. Contact: 9686469799

30X32 North Site Sale Janabarathi BDA Allotti Amma School Back Side Park & 40x60 North 2nd Blck Vishweshwaraiah Lyt 9500/- Soft: 9535111055

WHITEFIELD

WHITEFIELD...CLOSE to HopeFarm circle West facing, G Floor 1175 sqft Flat for sale a @85 lacs.Pls Call 9845145160 Easthood properties

43000 sqft land for sale in whitefield (ECC road) near prestige pine project. 55 crores. strictly no brokers. Unique Realty #09884289348

YELAHANKA

YELAHANKA - South West Corner site 40*40, 25*40, 20*40 BBMP Limit E khatha, Behind Euro School, Kogilu Main Road, Rs.6250/- per Sqfeet. Mob : 9742834275, 9900789192

TENANTED Properties Immediate Rent Yielding Invest 1Cr Earn 65 K Per M, Invest 50L Earn 32.5 K/M, Invest 25 L Earn 16.25 K/M Ct: 95381 88399

FOR SALE

BHUBANESHWAR

SALE: 2 Distillery (120 Cr & 350 Cr), Beauty Products Business,Textile & Bread Factory, 7 Pharma Units, Palm Trees Plantation, Pre Leased Buildings, 60+ Hotels, Hospitals, R-Zone Lands, Schools 9119277289

BANGALORE

RENT yielding property in Ulsoor, SNT street 6 units - 1 BHK, 5 units - 2BHK Rental income of 2.75L/month Asking price is 5.80cr slightly negotiable Contact 9845044873

BDA Commercial Building BSK - Bank Colony, Near PES College, 60 x 40 Corner North Facing, Expected Rent - 3.10 Lk Price - 7.5 Cr, Call - 9110479782

SHANTHINAGAR 17/2 Berlie St, Land for Sale at Negotiable rate 1600+600 sqft. North east. Broker Excuse. Contact no: Vikas 9884150577

2BHK FLAT FOR SALE at HOODI Sri Krishna sai Enclave 1240 sft 7500 per sqft negotiable with all amnyts 1car Park E khata call 9986701725

KERALA

THRISSUR KERALA FLAT FOR SALE
At Asset Platina Apartment
Punkunnam, ready to occupy apartment of **1313 sqft.** on the 3rd floor with modern amenities, for sale with car parking
9895654446

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

FOR RENT Semi-Commercial Building 40 rooms PG @ Electronic City, Begur

NEW INDEPENDENT Building ready to occupy, with water, lift, parking, Suitable for Rooms, Office, Hospial etc Ph: 77950 63380.

PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT
#51, SPRINGDALE, 1ST CROSS, RESIDENCY RD,BANGALORE – 25

Walking Distance to Brigade Road & MG Road, Close to Metro & Bus Station In prime Retail & Dining Hub

Property Highlights:-
- **Approx 10,500 Sqft Carpet area**
- **Spread across 3 Floors**
- **Car/Bike parking available**
- **Best for Corporate, Legal Firms, Banks & Retail on GF**

Contact: 97394 20312

LEASE & RENT

RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT @RAMANAGARA 12000 SQFT

PRIME RETAIL SPACE Ground Floor - 6000 sqft & First Floor - 6000 sqft. Available for Rent Contact : 9663742247

FOR RENT PRIME OFFICE SPACE HSR Sector-4 3500 Sqft Fully Furnished (Sound Proof Building)

2ND FLR All Amenities Ready Plug & Play, A/c, 40 workstation 3Cabins, One Conference,Car &2wheeler Parking. Call: 98453 93615

FOR RENT / SALE FULLY FURNISHED OFFICE 3rd Floor ON OLD AIRPORT ROAD VDB TOUCHDOWN Next to HAL Museum 7447 Sqft
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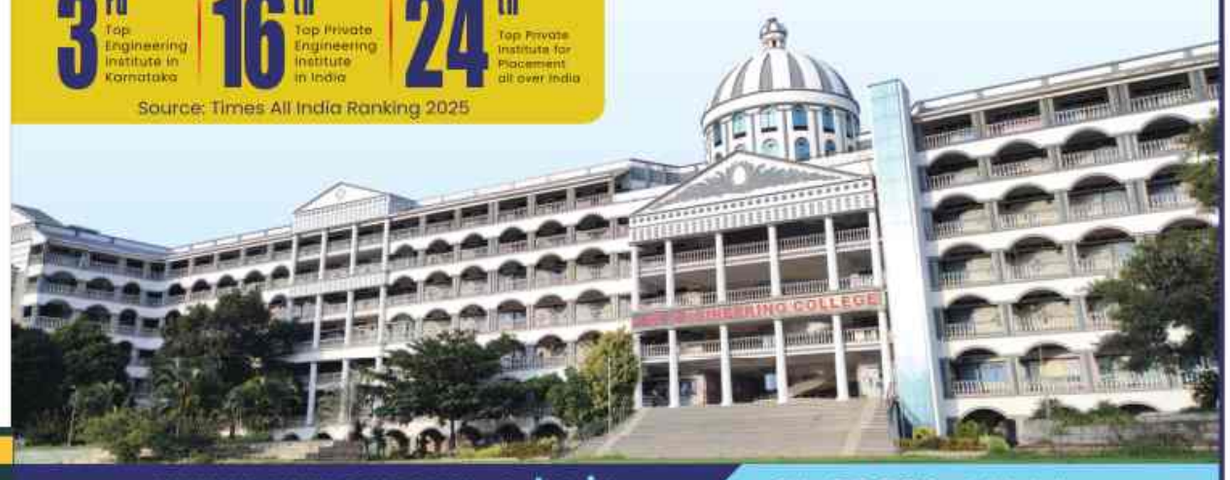

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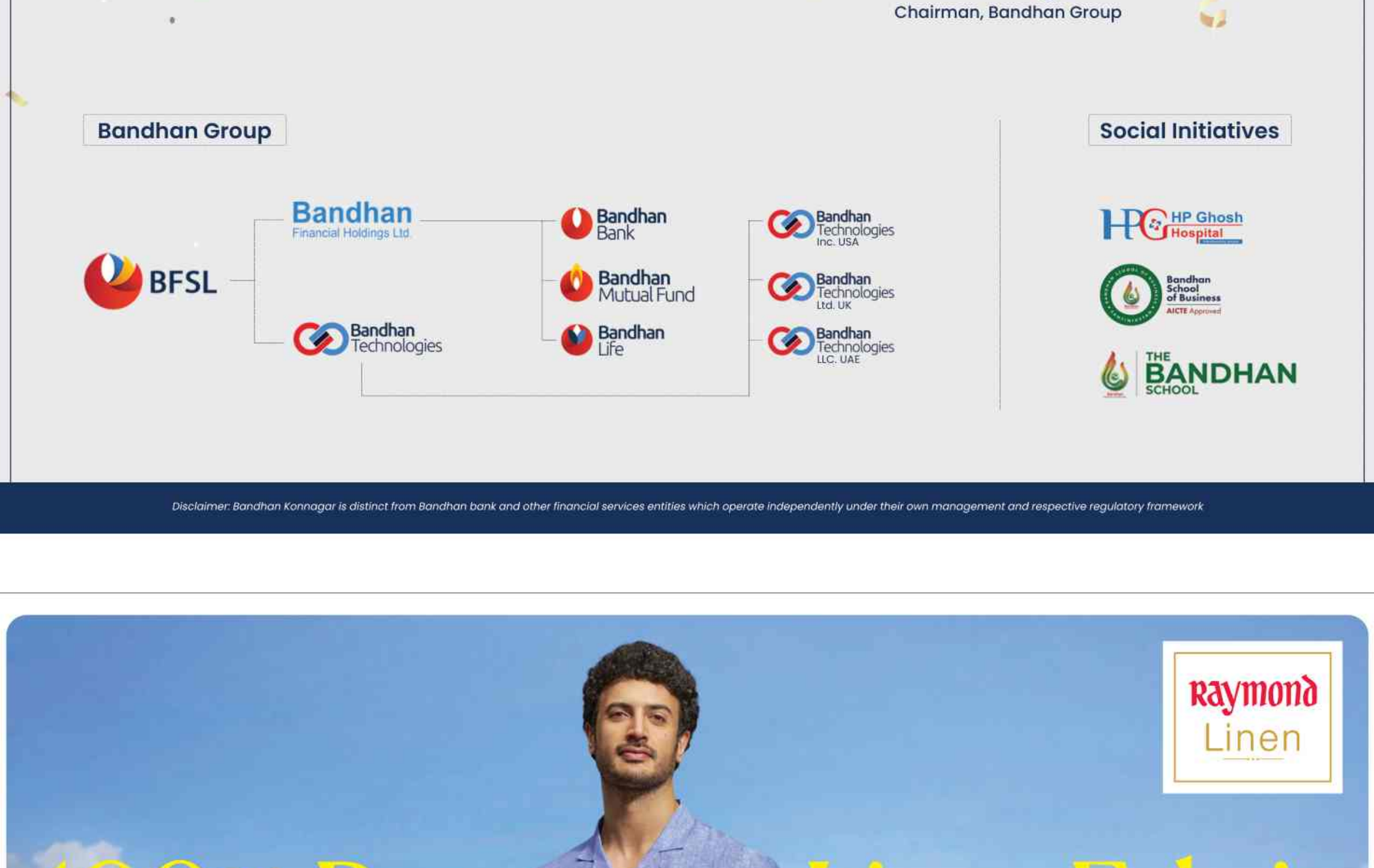

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Vasuki's impromptu reality show jam turns music video

An actor must be malleable to pull off any kind of role: Thejaswini Sharma

Participation of women pushed up overall polling percentage

▶Continued from page 1

The gender turnout gap was the widest in Kerala, at nearly 6 percentage points, as against 3.2 percentage points in Puducherry and 1.1 percentage points in Assam. The enthusiastic participation by women electors pushed up the overall polling percentage across the three states/UT.

Most political parties have been targeting women electors in their manifesto promises. In Kerala, LDF has promised to raise women participation in the workforce to 50%, while UDF has offered them free travel in state buses.

In Assam, BJP promised that monthly direct bank transfer under Orunodoi

DANCE of DEMOCRACY: PAGE 10

scheme would be increased to Rs 3,000 for women and that it aims for 40 lakh "lakhpati baideos", a flagship initiative to economically empower women. Congress, in its manifesto for Assam, has promised an unconditional bank transfer of a stipulated amount to every woman's account as well as Rs 50,000 for women entrepreneurs.

At the national level, Narendra Modi govt has already moved to implement women's quota in legislatures from 2029 general elections. While the overall voter turnout touched an all-time high in Assam and Puducherry (85.9% and 89.9%, respectively), male voter turnout was also the highest ever in these two states. But, 75.2% male voter turnout in Kerala was much lower than the all-time high of 80.5% recorded in 1987 assembly polls.

Massive participation by women in these states/UT is not new. In Puducherry, women turnouts have been higher than male turnouts in 18 of 30 LS and assembly polls held since 1964. In Kerala, it has been higher in 9 of 34 parliamentary/assembly polls held since 1957.

Without naming Israel, India regrets Lebanon civilian deaths

'Respecting Sovereignty & Territorial Integrity Of States Essential'

Times News Network

AP

A family picture sits in the rubble after Israeli airstrike in Beirut

New Delhi: Amid outrage over the latest Israeli strikes on Lebanon, India on Friday expressed deep concern over the large number of civilian casualties in aerial attacks that followed the two-week US-Iran ceasefire announced on Wednesday. The attacks left over 300 dead, according to reports from the region.

As a troop-contributing country to UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which is invested in Lebanon's peace and security, the direction of events is very disturbing, said the ministry of external affairs in response to media queries. The ministry did not name Israel.

The ceasefire has come under strain because of confusion over whether Lebanon is included in the deal. While Israel maintains it is not, Iran has described the attacks as a blatant violation of the agreement.

"India has always emphasised the protection of civilians as the foremost priority. Observing international law and respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of states is essential," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, adding that the Indian embassy in Lebanon remained in close touch with the Indian community for its safety and security.

India had welcomed the temporary ceasefire, expressing hope that it would facilitate freedom of navigation through Strait of Hormuz and lead to lasting peace in the region.

Pakistan seemed set to host talks between the US and Iran on Saturday to secure the ceasefire, which remains fragile for now. On his way to Pakistan, US Vice-President J D Vance said he was looking forward to the negotiations that he thought were going to be positive. However, he warned Tehran not to "play" the US.

"As the President of the US said, if the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand. If they're going to try to play us, then they're going to find the negotiating team is not that receptive," said Vance.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that Israel was ready to start negotiations with Lebanon for disarming Hezbollah and establishing peaceful relations.

Share burden of war cost, don't pass it all on to consumers: Govt to India Inc

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: "You pocket all the profits when the going is good, but instantly pass on costs when things turn adverse. A little sharing of burden may not be bad for you" — the purported remark by a senior govt functionary has sent ripples across govt circles. The functionary is said to have made the observation during a recent interaction with some industry representatives, who told him about rising costs of raw materials due to the conflict in West Asia.

While being empathetic to them and assuring them of all possible support from govt, the functionary suggested that the industry could absorb some of the increase in costs of materials, instead of passing on all of that to consumers.

Qatar: We will be reliable oil suppliers

Qatar's energy minister Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi assured India it will remain a reliable energy supplier during petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri's Doha visit. Both sides discussed trade, investment, energy cooperation, regional stability, and freedom of navigation. The assurance is significant as Qatar is a major LNG and LPG supplier to India. TNN

Meanwhile, on Friday, while chairing a high-level review meeting with senior officials and port authorities, shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal warned terminal operators that the West Asia crisis must not become an "opportunity for profiteering". He said, "All charges must be clearly documented and monitored to protect trade interests." This comes amid complaints of exporters not getting the full benefit of concessions allowed by port authorities immediately.

Ministries and departments — after getting inputs from industries on short supply or non-availability of key materials — have been taking up matters with agencies concerned and also with "higher levels" for finding solutions.

Govt has set up seven empowered groups of secretaries which regularly examine potential disruptions to trade, supply chains and logistics, including shipping routes, ports, aviation corridors and critical imports and exports. These have also been taking mitigation measures, and monitoring domestic availability and price stability of essential commodities.

Rubio to visit in May, India may host Quad meet

New Delhi: US secretary of state Marco Rubio will visit India next month, said ambassador Sergio Gor after a meeting that the former had with visiting Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri. This will be Rubio's first visit to India since he assumed office after the return of President Donald Trump to the White House.

Welcoming Misri to the White House, Gor said the foreign secretary had a productive meeting with Rubio that focused on bilateral relationship, especially trade, critical minerals, defence and the Quad.

While the visit will offer an opportunity for a comprehensive review of bilateral cooperation by both sides, diplomatic sources did not rule out a meeting of the Quad foreign ministers during Rubio's visit. But, no dates have been finalised yet either for Rubio's visit or the possible Quad meeting. TNN

After Malegaon case acquittal, Col Purohit promoted to Brigadier

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Army has cleared Colonel **Shrikant Prasad Purohit**'s promotion to the rank of Brigadier following his acquittal in the Malegaon blast case and his plea before the armed forces tribunal (AFT) that he should not be retired before his request for promotion is reviewed. "The order to promote Col S P Purohit to the rank of Brigadier came on Thursday," sources in the armed forces confirmed to **TOI**.

The decision comes weeks after AFT halted his scheduled retirement on March 31, 2026, allowing his pending promotion request to be reviewed first. Invoking tribunal's jurisdiction under Section 14 of Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, Purohit had contended that he was denied promotion while facing a long criminal trial after his arrest in 2008. He argued that delay in judicial process had denied him a fair opportunity for promotion.

A bench comprising AFT chairperson Justice Rajendra Menon and administrative member Rasika Chaube passed the order on March 16. It issued notice to govt & other respondents, asking them to explain why directives shouldn't be issued to consider his case for promotion to the rank of Brigadier and grant of all consequential service benefits on a par with his batchmates or subordinates. On the tribunal order, **TOI** had reported that "Army will examine the judgment and thereafter take action as per policy provisions".

On July 31, Mumbai NIA court acquitted Purohit and six others in Malegaon blast case, observing that prosecution had failed to establish the charges beyond a reasonable doubt. Col Purohit was in custody until 2017, when he was granted bail by Supreme Court. He subsequently resumed service in Army.

To remarry, man kills pregnant wife, two minor daughters; held

Warangal: About 10 days after a three-month pregnant woman and her two daughters, aged nine and five, were found dead in a private swimming pool on the city outskirts, Warangal Police Friday arrested 10 people, including her husband, Md Azharuddin, prime accused, **reports Shiva Kumar Pinna**.

9 OTHERS ARRESTED

Police said Azharuddin allegedly plotted the murders after discovering that his wife, Farhana (26), was pregnant with a girl child. He wanted to marry a minor girl in the hope of having a male heir despite refusal by her and her family.

Police also his parents, a medical shop owner, a medical practitioner, a nurse, a lab technician and a mediator for facilitating and conducting a sex determination test on Farhana. Two gynaecologists are on the run. Azharuddin has confessed to the crime, police said.

Hyd woman kills self after spurned suitor injects her with HIV+ blood

Mahesh.Buddi
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: A 24-year-old woman died by suicide at her grandmother's house in Pocharam in Hyderabad Friday, a month after she was injected with HIV-infected blood by a relative whose marriage proposal she had rejected.

The accused, who was HIV-positive from birth, collected his own blood in a syringe and forcibly injected it into the woman at her house on March 11, after she refused to marry him because of his health condition. He was booked for attempted murder, and is in judicial remand.

Police said there was no confirmation on the woman's HIV status after the assault.

Police said there was no confirmation on the woman's HIV status after the assault

"The suicide said the accused had ruined her life, and that the criminal act had resulted in many negative comments about her on social media. She was upset that her privacy had been breached, and apologised to her parents for killing herself," Pocharam IT Corridor sub-inspector Vijay Bhaskar Reddy said.

Her parents and her grandmother sell flowers for a living and were out on work Friday . They found out about her death when the grandmother returned home around 10am. "Based on the statement of her family, we will seek legal opinion on whether the abetment to suicide charge can be added against the accused," said inspector K Kanakaiah Goud.

The 24-year-old accused, who worked as a transport supervisor at an IT firm, had barged into the victim's flat last month when she was alone. As she approached him, he pulled out a syringe and jabbed it into her forearm. The woman did not immediately inform her family.

She developed body pain and fever the next day, prompting her family to take her to a doctor, who noticed a dark clot on her forearm and questioned her about it. She then revealed about the assault.

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I, Rohith Kumar KR, father of SAI SWASTHIK, residing at Door No# 378, 12th Cross, M.V. Garden, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560008, Karnataka, India, hereby declare that my son's name has been changed from SAI SWASTHIK to SAI SWASTHIK R for all purposes as per Birth Certificate Registration Number JAM/B/2013/00230/000643 approved on 03/03/2026.

I Advay Vinay Javali S/o Vinay Javali, R/o Thindlu, Bangalore-97 have changed my name from Advay Vinay Javali to Advay Javali vide affidavit no. IN-KA29067982283208Y for all future purposes.

I, Yashoda M residing at 205, Nirman Layout, Bengaluru-560105, have changed my name to Yashoda Mariappa Hegde. I have submitted an affidavit (24-03-2026) before Notary Muniswamy T (Reg. no 19927). Henceforth, I shall be known by this name.

I Suresh Vagale Lakshmanasa S/O, Lakshmanasa R/o F004, Pride Enchanta, No 320, Mysore Road, Ranganatha Colony, Opp B H E L Factory, Deepanjali Nagar, Bangalore - 560026. have changed my name to Suresh Vagale.

NAME CHANGE I,Upasana Shrivastav, R/o B1 1105, SNN Raj Serenity, have changed my name to Upasana Srivastava. Henceforth, I shall be known as Upasana Srivastava for all purposes.

I, Vishnu Vinay, 22 yrs, C/o. Vinay Sreedhar, No.407, Old Madras Road, B-93, have changed my name to Vishnu Vinay Nair affidavit dt. 10.04.26 M Rajendra

I Abhilasha W/O, Dilip Aditya Singh R/o Villa 5, 42 Queens Square, Sarjapur Attibele Road, Bangalore, Karnataka 562125 have changed my name to Abhilasha Singh.

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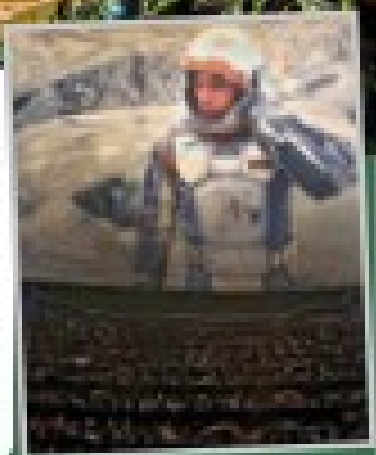

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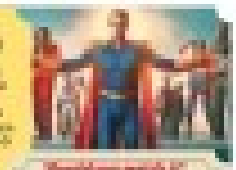

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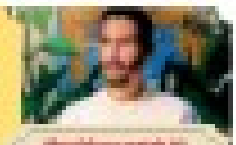

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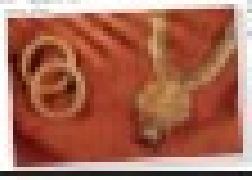

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Bengal, with its polarised minority vote, makes Hindutva & security good poll planks, feels BJP

Also Targets State's Women & Youth With Welfare Pitch

Kumar.Rakesh@timesofindia.com

Amit Shah with Suvendu Adhikari in Kolkata on Friday

New Delhi: Seeking to mobilise the electorate around its Hindutva agenda and a promised crackdown on infiltrators, while countering TMC's alleged appeasement of Muslim votes, BJP's Bengal manifesto sharpens its cultural nationalism plank and pairs it with its tried-and-tested welfare pitch, especially targeting women and youth, as it looks to take on CM Mamata Banerjee and end her 15-year rule.

Though the party has run a relatively low-key campaign, it has raised the pitch by stepping up its Hindutva outreach. The manifesto promises implementation of a Uniform Civil Code, a law to ensure freedom of religious practices — an issue on which it has often accused TMC of discriminating against Hindu traditions such as religious processions — and the establishment of a Vande Mataram museum. While this strategy carries risks, given Muslims account for about 27% of the population and may consolidate further behind the CM, BJP appears to be banking on a stronger consolidation of Hindu votes.

Released by home minister Amit Shah in Kolkata, the manifesto stresses national security, echoing commitments made in Assam, another state bordering Bangladesh. BJP has promised to provide land for completing fencing of India-Bangladesh border, alleging that gaps were deliberately left by previous Left and TMC govts to allow infiltration.

The party has long tapped into anxieties over alleged infiltration of Bangladeshis in Assam, where the Muslim population is higher, and has made a crackdown on illegal immigration a central part of its political and governance agenda over the past decade. It has similarly promised to end cattle smuggling and curb syndicates and the culture of "cut money" in Bengal — issues aimed at addressing concerns over women's safety, law and order, and what it describes as a nexus of local strongmen and cross-border criminal networks.

In the recently-held Assam polls, BJP had also promised UCC. It now hopes to replicate a similar political success in Bengal, despite Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool being seen as a far more entrenched and formidable rival.

While UCC is part of BJP's broader national agenda, it has not been included in every election manifesto, with Kerala being a recent example. Uttarakhand has become the first state to implement it, Gujarat has set up a committee to explore its rollout, and Goa continues to follow a version of it dating back to its pre-independence legal framework.

BJP believes WB's unique political landscape — marked by a direct contest with TMC and a largely polarised minority vote — makes its Hindutva and national security plank more electorally effective.

At the same time, the party has sought to outdo TMC govt on welfare, promising Rs 3,000 per month for both youth and women. With pro-women schemes often proving decisive, it has also pledged women-only police battalions and 33% reservation for women in govt jobs.

The inclusion of cash assistance for youth, not a feature in several other state campaigns, underlines BJP's attempt to position itself as a more attractive option for younger voters, despite criticism of offering freebies.

The manifesto also includes targeted outreach to key constituencies such as govt employees and influential social groups like Kurmis, Rajbongshis and tea garden workers, reflecting a calibrated effort to broaden its base.

Party vows to end 'politics of appeasement', bring UCC

▶Continued from page 1

It is not correct to describe these (welfare measures) as freebies. In not a single state where BJP is in office has it stopped any pro-poor scheme implemented by the previous govt," Shah said after releasing Sankalp Patra, the party's manifesto for the Bengal assembly polls, to be held on April 23 and April 29.

Shah, who was speaking at a Kolkata hotel, made it clear the attempt to standardise civil laws will be done "without interfering with food habits and religious practices".

BATTLEGROUND WEST BENGAL

The manifesto proposes to replace diverse personal laws with a UCC to ensure "equal treatment of all religions" under Constitution.

Amit Shah argued that having different laws for different citizens — citing marriage rules — amounts to "appeasement politics" that BJP seeks to end.

Bengal BJP netas said UCC would be a key reform to advance women's rights, particularly in inheritance, maintenance and marriage. In a state with substantial Muslim population, they argued, the pitch could help consolidate Hindu votes across caste lines.

Besides the promise of Rs 3,000 per month for women — seen as part of TMC's core vote base — the Sankalp Patra offers Rs 50,000 to girls for college enrolment, Rs 21,000 for pregnant women from marginalised families, and free travel for them on government buses. It also proposes "Durga Suraksha Squads" in urban areas for women's safety.

The manifesto calls for laws against "love jihad" and "land jihad", themes the party has linked earlier to concerns over infiltration and alleged land seizures in West Bengal.

Addressing unemployment, recruitment scams and lack of industrial growth, the manifesto promises Rs 3,000 monthly support for unemployed youth and a Rs 15,000 grant to prepare for competitive exams. It sets a target of creating one crore jobs and self-employment opportunities over five years.

Laying out a 15-point roadmap to move Bengal from "despair to development", the manifesto proposes seaports in Tajpur and Kulpi, a national highway linking the Sundarbans to Darjeeling, completion of stalled Metro projects and six railway projects, and operationalisation of airports in Purulia, Malda and Balurghat. It also proposes industrial units of varying scales in Singur.

The manifesto pledges to end illegal mining of coal, soil and sand, dismantle "mafia raj" and "cut money" system, and act against corruption.

TMC: 'Copycat manifesto', BJP never delivers on its promises

Kolkata: TMC dubbed BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' for Bengal a "copycat" manifesto, trashing its cash assistance pledges, and alleged that the saffron party never delivers on its promises.

At a rally in Basirhat, CM **Mamata Banerjee** asked how many people had received Rs 15 lakh in their bank accounts that PM Modi had promised 12 years ago. "What about the two crore jobs per year that were promised? Was the black money issue resolved after demonetisation? What is the cost of LPG, petrol and diesel? Inflation is skyrocketing. Only the value of human life has reduced," she said.

Referring to the cash assistance promise in the manifesto, TMC spokesman Kunal Ghosh said, "When Didi implemented schemes for women, they criticised her. Later, BJP-governed states adopted these very schemes. Now, they have included them in their promises. Why would people accept copycats, photocopies, when they have the original?"

— Dwaipayan Ghosh

No notices for code violations, EC now goes for FIRs straight

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

With shorter, fewer-phase polls, the time-consuming process of issuing notices, seeking replies and adjudicating may not fit into tight campaign windows

New Delhi: Polling in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry is over, and less than three weeks remain before campaigning ends in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, yet the Election Commission of India has not issued a single notice for violation of the model code of conduct (MCC) so far. Trends since the 2025 Bihar polls show a shift, with FIRs now being filed for serious offences that earlier attracted graded MCC actions like warnings, censure or temporary campaign bans.

This time, no MCC notices were issued over "communal" remarks by Mallikarjun Kharge at a rally in Assam, on April 7, despite BJP's request, or over the "multiple passports" allegation made by Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera against the Assam CM's wife on April 5. FIRs were registered in both cases.

Officials said the shift away from MCC notices is a conscious decision under CEC Gyanesh Kumar. With shorter, fewer-phase polls, the time-consuming process of issuing notices, seeking replies and adjudicating may not fit into tight campaign windows. Also, MCC lacks legal sanctity, being a voluntary code among parties.

Since most MCC violations — communal appeals, personal attacks, abusive language, corrupt practices and voter intimidation — are covered under criminal laws and the Representation of the People Act, officials said serious cases can be addressed through due legal process, allowing the EC to focus on election conduct.

"When an offence is clearly made out, it makes more sense to ask local authorities to register an FIR rather than go through the process of issuing a notice," an official said, noting that warnings or censure often fail as deterrents and repeat violations are common.

Officials added that MCC notices are sometimes used by politicians to play the "victim card". Ignoring minor violations while pursuing FIRs in serious cases is therefore a conscious strategy. They said MCC notices against opposition leaders often trigger allegations of bias. While ruling politicians tend to be more measured, opposition leaders are more combative. FIRs, being part of due legal process, leave less scope for such charges.

The model code was first introduced in Kerala during the 1960 assembly polls and refined nationally during T N Seshan's tenure in 1991, with stricter enforcement since the general election that year.

POLL VAULT

Kannur sees fresh post-poll violence

Post-poll violence continued in Kannur on Friday, with the home of a supporter of expelled CPM neta-turned-UDF-backed Independent V Kunhikrishnan vandalised and his car torched. Kunhikrishnan blamed CPM rival Madhusoodhanan's supporters. A Congress office in Mayyil was attacked, while properties linked to UDF workers were targeted.

T'gana HC grants Khera interim relief

Telangana HC Friday granted a week's "transit anticipatory bail" to Pawan Khera, facing arrest over alleged defamatory remarks against

Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, wife of Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. HC barred Khera from making any public statements and directed him to approach the court in Assam within a week for appropriate relief. Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi appeared for Khera.

Puri turns Bengal poll battleground

Ahead of WB polls, Puri has turned into a battleground for TMC and BJP, with banners flooding areas like Swargadwar beach, dubbed a "mini-Bengal" for its flow of Bengali visitors. Bengal is Odisha's top domestic tourist source. Servitors of Jagannath Temple say they are being approached by both parties for indirect outreach among devotees.

Owaisi dumps Kabir after sting video on '₹1k cr BJP deal'

Kolkata: Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM Friday severed its electoral alliance with Humayun Kabir's Aam Janata Unnayan Party, a day after a purported sting video showed a person resembling the suspended TMC MLA discussing a Rs 1,000-crore arrangement with BJP for post-election support and suggesting Muslim voters needed to be "misled" to influence poll outcomes.

Humayun Kabir and Owaisi

"Humayun Kabir's revelations have shown how vulnerable Bengal's Muslims are. AIMIM cannot associate with statements questioning their integrity," the party posted on X, adding it would now contest the polls independently. The earlier alliance had AUJP contesting 182 of 294 seats and AIMIM 17.

The video, titled 'The Reality of HK' and released by TMC, was said to have been recorded on Dec 19 but remains unverified. Kabir dismissed it as AI-generated, accusing TMC of trying to erode his support base, and said he would move court.

Amit Shah denied any BJP link. "Kabir and BJP are like South and North Pole," he said, though Kabir had contested the 2019 LS polls on a BJP ticket.

At a rally in Rampurhat, Kabir attended but AIMIM leaders stayed away. He accused Mamata Banerjee of acting as a "middleman of RSS". — Tamaghna Banerjee & S Boral

Day after Vijay's unreleased film leaks online, TVK blames rivals

Times News Network

Chennai: A day after TVK chief Vijay's yet to be released movie 'Jananayagan' surfaced online, the party blamed Union minister of state L Murugan and Tamil Nadu's deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin for the leak.

TVK general secretary Aadhav Arjuna alleged that Murugan, as Union I&B minister overseeing CBFC, was responsible for the leak and that he "acted in coordination with" Udhayanidhi.

The movie, directed by H Vinoth, is being touted as the last film of Vijay, who is contesting the assembly polls. The film was caught in a long-drawn battle with the CBFC and was awaiting clearance for release.

Speaking to reporters, Aadhav said the leak was intended to damage Vijay and inflict losses on him and the producer. "They are trying to figure out extent to which they can exert pressure on Vijay," he said, adding that such tactics would not work as "the people of Tamil Nadu will stand with him".

Vijay himself chose not to react to the development. DMK and BJP, too, did not respond to the charges.

However, the production house has filed a complaint seeking forensic investigations and action against those behind the unauthorised circulation. In a statement, KVN Productions said, "Civil and criminal proceedings will be pursued against every offender without exception." The producers also cautioned the public against sharing the leaked content, and warned of legal action against violators.

Meanwhile, members of the film fraternity, including actors Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Chiranjeevi and Suriya, condemned the leak of the movie. Calling the incident shocking and painful, Rajinikanth said in a post on X: "Film bodies must raise their voice against this. Govt should identify those responsible and impose strict punishment. Such crimes should not continue hereafter."

BATTLEGROUND TAMIL NADU

Kamal Haasan said the leak was the result of a "systemic failure". Producers Kalaipuli S. Dhanu, KR and theatre owners' leader Tirupur Subramanian also condemned the piracy attempt.

Legally married, currently separated, says actor-BJP pick on marital status

Tamaghna.Banerjee @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: "Legally married; currently separated" is how actor and BJP's Kharagpur Town MLA **Hiranmoy Chattopadhyay** (Hiraan) has described his marital status in his nomination affidavit while mentioning Anindita Chattopadhyay as his spouse.

Earlier this year, Anindita had filed an FIR accusing Hiraan of mental and physical cruelty and entering into a second marriage without divorce after photos surfaced of the actor and associate Rittika Giri performing Hindu wedding rituals in Varanasi.

Hiraan, contesting this time from Shyampur in Howrah district, declared Rs 15 lakh cash in hand and Anindita's at Rs 12 lakh. His bank and insurance investments total Rs 5.3 crore. He owns a car worth Rs 4.7 lakh while Anindita has an SUV worth Rs 5 lakh registered in her name. He declared 20 gms jewellery worth Rs 4.7 lakh. Anindita's jewellery is valued at Rs 18 lakh. Their combined assets are Rs 14.5 crore while liabilities are Rs 2.3 lakh.

Hiraan also has four pending criminal cases, including assault and conspiracy charges and the complaint filed by Anindita.

Deleted from Bengal rolls & added to Bihar list: TMC worker

Kolkata: A Trinamool worker has alleged that his name has been deleted from the final electoral roll of West Bengal and added to the Bihar voter list.

Krishnendu Mukherjee, 44, a Trinamool booth-level agent from Beliaghata, said he is seeking legal advice to resolve the issue. According to Mukherjee, his name appeared in the draft roll, but when the final roll was published, his case was shown as under adjudication. In the second supplementary list, his name was deleted.

On Thursday, at a camp organised by the party to assist deleted voters in filing appeals before the tribunal, Mukherjee entered his EPIC number on the Election Commission website, which displayed: "Search your name in 2003 Bihar electoral roll database". He said he tried as directed but could not log into the Bihar database.

"Of the 10 members of my family, only my name was deleted. I think this was a conspiracy by BJP because I am an active TMC member," Mukherjee alleged. He said his name was present in the 2002 SIR roll and that his family has lived in Beleghata for years with no connection to Bihar. "I have never visited Bihar. How was my name added there?" he asked.

Mukherjee, who served as a booth agent in ward 34, said he had helped fill enumeration forms during door-to-door campaigns and was confident there was no error. "I was not even called for a hearing," he said.

Alokananda Das, councillor of the area, said an eligible voter had lost his right and sought answers. — Poulami Roy

Those deleted from rolls 'anti-nationals', says Bengal BJP neta

Sujoy Khanra | TNN

Kharagpur: All 90.8 lakh people whose names have been struck off Bengal's electoral rolls are "anti-nationals", former state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh said in Kharagpur late Thursday, challenging Trinamool Congress to repeat its electoral success without "fake voters".

"The bell is tolling. Pishi-Bhaipo duo (Mamata Banerjee and nephew, MP Abhishek Banerjee) is changing their tune," BJP's Kharagpur Town candidate said while campaigning in Talbagicha, a Hindu refugee colony established in the 1950s.

"EC has pumped out all the extra water. While 90 lakh are gone, another 10-12-15 lakh will follow. It is because of these fake voters that Mamata Banerjee became CM thrice. CPM stayed in office 34 years the same way. These anti-nationals have finally been ousted."

More than 57,000 out of the 2.3 lakh voters in Kharagpur Town constituency are among those whose names have been deleted after multiple rounds of scrutiny, including post-SIR judicial adjudication.

Ghosh's "anti-national" charge came within 24 hours of acknowledging that the names of some genuine voters had been unfairly removed during the supplementary intensive revision exercise. This was when a group of women stopped him on the campaign trail to question why their names had been knocked off the list.

Ghosh's election opponent, Trinamool's Pradeep Sarkar, latched onto his controversial remark. "Dilipbabu's statement reveals the true character of BJP. Is he calling the 57 lakh Hindus excluded from the list traitors and 'anti-nationals'?

EC rejects TMC pick's nomination for subsisting contract with govt

Krishnanagar (Nadia): EC has cancelled the nomination of Trinamool Congress candidate Abhinav Bhattacharya from Krishnanagar North in Nadia district on grounds of conflict of interest — the first such rejection involving a recognised party's candidate in the 2026 Bengal assembly elections, reports **Ashis Poddar**.

The poll panel invoked section 9A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which disqualifies anyone with a subsisting contract with govt for supply of goods or execution of works. EC found that Bhattacharya's business dealings with state govt constituted a conflict of interest, rendering his candidature invalid, sources said.

TMC, anticipating the possibility, had got an alternative candidate, Somnath Dutta, to file his nomination. He will now contest from the seat as TMC nominee. Bhattacharya called the development "unfortunate", but said he would abide by the party's decision.

CEO: Not a single name deleted from poll rolls without adhering to stipulated process

▶Continued from P1

Agra with 6.3 lakh deletions (17.7%), Meerut's 5.06 lakh (18.8%) and Bareilly's 4.5 lakh (13.4%) were the other high-burn districts. Among assembly constituencies, Sahibabad registered over 3.1 lakh (30.3%) deletions, followed by Noida 1.8 lakh (23.8%), Lucknow North 1.5 lakh (31%), Agra Cantt 1.4 lakh (30.4%) and Allahabad North 1.4 lakh (34%).

The CEO said the overall voter-deletion rate of 13.2% in India's most populous state was still lower than Gujarat's 13.4%. Among the states and Union territories where voter rolls were revised, Chhattisgarh is third with a deletion rate of 11.7%, followed by

WOMEN POWER: A whopping 91.4% of female electorate in Puducherry, 86.5% in Assam and 81.2% in Kerala exercised their franchise in the polls

Tamil Nadu with 11.5%, Goa 10.7%, Puducherry 7.5%, Madhya Pradesh 5.9%, Rajasthan 5.7% and Kerala 3.2%. Rinwa advised voters who wished to appeal to do so by filing claims at their respective DM offices within a fortnight. "A second appeal can be filed before the CEO. If that also doesn't resolve the issue, one can still register as a new voter by filling in Form 6."

The SIR exercise started on Oct 27 last year with a voter list containing over 15.4 crore names. Between Jan 6 and April 10, over 8.1 lakh names were deleted, almost 80% of these either for not responding to notices for hearings or for shifting elsewhere.

Rinwa said 3.2 crore notices were served and that not a single name was deleted from the rolls without adhering to the stipulated process. "If a name present in the draft rolls is missing from the final list, it is either due to discrepancies in Form 6 or a decision taken by a designated electoral registration officer after due process," he said.

Kin try to give Veerappan a Robin Hood aura, join fray as 'defenders of Tamil nationalism'

Senthilkumaran @timesofindia.com

Salem: Two decades after dreaded forest brigand Veerappan was killed in a police encounter in Tamil Nadu, his daughter and widow are attempting to rewrite his story — from that of a feared outlaw to a defender of Tamil rights — through electoral politics.

Veerappan's elder daughter Vidhyarani, 35, an advocate, is contesting from Mettur constituency as a candidate of Naam Tamilar Katchi, while his widow Muthulakshmi is in the fray from Krishnagiri on behalf of Tamilaga Vazhvurimai Katchi. Both the parties back 'Tamil nationalism'.

"If my father were alive today, he would have entered the democratic process, too," says Vidhyarani, who is testing electoral waters for the second time. She had earlier contested the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Krishnagiri as an NTK candidate, polling over one lakh votes.

Muthulakshmi and Vidhyarani

For Muthulakshmi too, this marks a return to politics after her debut as an independent candidate in the 2006 assembly elections.

Both the women have embraced Veerappan's controversial legacy instead of shying away from it, and seek to repaint him. "He was not the dreaded criminal he was made out to be. He stood against exploitation and injustice," Vidhyarani said at a rally in Mettur, drawing loud cheers, particularly from young supporters. Her campaign echoes NTK's core plank of Tamil nationalism.

NTK chief Seeman was vocal in his support for Veerappan. "If Prabhakaran (LTTE chief) was the guardian of our race, Veerappan was the guardian of our forests," he said while canvassing for her.

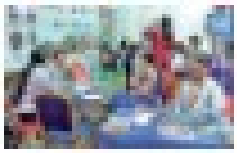
Vidhyarani's political journey began with Pattali Makkal Katchi, which draws its support from Vanniyars, a numerically strong community spread across more than a dozen districts in Tamil Nadu. She joined BJP in 2020, before switching to NTK in 2024.

In Krishnagiri, Muthulakshmi focusses on agrarian distress in her campaigns. "I have lived among farmers. My fight is for water, crops and dignity," she told **TOI**.

Both maintain that they face no hostility due to their past. "On the contrary, people respect us," Vidhyarani said.

Observers believe their entry could dent PMK — an AIADMK ally — particularly in the Vanniyar-dominated Mettur and Krishnagiri belts. While neither candidate foregrounds caste, they are expected to attract a share of the community votes, which are otherwise expected to go for PMK.

IGNITING AMBITIONS, EMPOWERING FUTURE: TV9 KANNADA EDUCATION EXPO 2026 LEADS THE WAY



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SCAN ME

Can't have different DA hikes for staff and pensioners: SC

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Observing that inflationary pressures do not discriminate between a serving employee and a pensioner, hitting the two equally, Supreme Court on Friday held that fixing differential rates of enhancement of inflation-linked dearness benefits for the two categories is arbitrary and cannot be allowed.

A bench of Justice Manoj Misra and Prasanna B Varale disapproved of Kerala govt's decision to raise dearness allowance (DA) by 14% for state road transport corporation employees when the dearness relief (DR) for its retired employees was raised by just 11%.

"...The Government Order in question increases the rate of DA by 14% and DR by 11% even though the increase is to serve a common object, which is to mitigate the hardship faced by the serving employees and pensioners on account of inflation. Indisputably, inflation hits both serving and retired employees with equal force; therefore, differentiating the two qua the rate of increase of DA and DR, in our view, has no rational nexus to the object sought to be achieved," Justice Misra, who penned the judgment for the bench, said, accepting the plea of senior advocates V Chitambaresh and Vipin Nair. The state had contended that serving and retired employees belonged to different categories.

Rejecting its stance, the bench said, "But once a decision is taken to provide certain allowances, as also to increase them, based on inflation, fixing a higher rate of increase for the ones who are serving than the ones who have retired, would be arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution."

'Promotion of retired employee can't be revoked'

An employee's promotion cannot be withdrawn after retirement, the Orissa high court has ruled, setting aside an order of the Cuttack Urban Cooperative Bank that reversed a promotion and demanded to recover the alleged excess salary from a retired employee. Justice Biraja Prasanna Satapathy passed the order on a petition filed by Sagar Kehsari Nayak, who had superannuated on June 30, 2022. TNN

Pune techie gets 25 years' RI for raping minor

Pune: A special Pocso court awarded 25 years of rigorous imprisonment to a 41-year-old techie for repeatedly raping his minor niece, **reports Kanwardeep Singh**. The crime occurred over three years, when the child was living with her maternal aunt — the convict's wife — after her father was jailed for killing her mother.

The man worked as an application development team leader with an IT company in Hinjewadi. The abuse came to light on May 10, 2021, when the aunt grew suspicious. She set up her cellphone camera in the room, and captured the crime. The woman filed a police complaint the next day.

X may lose safe harbour status over Rana posts, govt tells HC

New Delhi: The Centre and Delhi Police told Delhi high court Friday that social media platform X (formerly Twitter) risks losing its safe harbour protection in India as an intermediary, if it fails to act despite court orders and police notices in connection with allegedly objectionable posts by journalist **Rana Ayyub** concerning Hindu deities and Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, **reports Abhinav Garg**.

In a note submitted to court, the Centre said despite having "actual knowledge", X did not remove the "unlawful content from its platform" and such inaction amounts to non-compliance with due diligence requirements under the law.

The authorities said such conduct "facilitates continued commission of unlawful acts" by Ayyub, which makes X liable to lose the safe harbour protection available to it as an intermediary.

Apprising the court, govt said steps have been initiated according to law to block certain allegedly derogatory and communally sensitive tweets by her, including requesting the platform on April 9 to block the objectionable tweets as per section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

"It is submitted that the Union of India under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 has already initiated the proceedings in accordance with law. It is further submitted that the designated officer appointed under rule 03, upon being satisfied that the circumstances warrant invocation of emergency powers under rule 09, shall take an appropriate decision which shall be placed before this Hon'ble Court," the note said. Rule 9 provides for blocking of information in cases of emergency.

Rape-murder: SC says cops, hosps 'inhuman'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday said the mishandling of the brutal sexual assault and murder of a four-year-old girl in Ghaziabad reflected "inhuman, indifferent and insensitive" attitude of police and private hospitals and that the incident warranted a court-monitored time-bound probe by a central agency or SIT.

Narrating how a daily wager's child was raped and bludgeoned to death by a neighbour, senior advocate N Hariharan told a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi that while two private hospitals refused treatment to the injured girl, who died while being taken to a govt hospital, the police locked up the parents and assaulted them for insisting on registering an FIR, which was registered a day later on March 17.

"The petition not only reveals this diabolic offence but also highlights the alleged approach of two private hospitals and the officers of the local police station (Nandgram), which is completely indifferent, inhuman, and insensitive," an anguished CJI said.

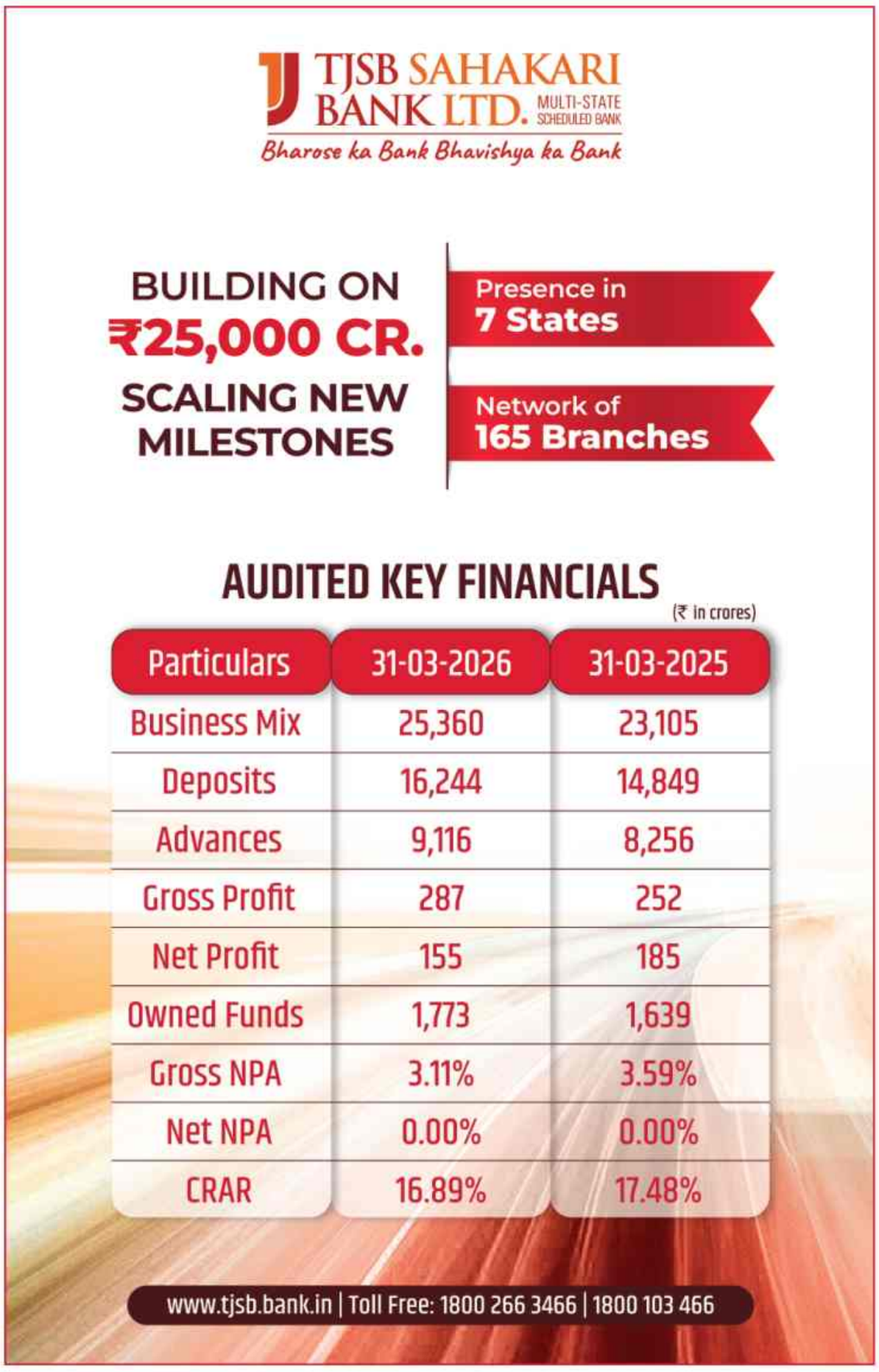
Deceptive recruitment for war is trafficking: SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday asked solicitor general Tushar Mehta to examine the claims of petitioners who are relatives of Indians stranded, detained or forcibly recruited in connection with the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said if the claims of the petitioners — that these Indians were lured by travel agents for employment or studies in Russia but were forcibly recruited for war purposes — were true, then this was human trafficking.

Mehta said if true, it was shocking and he would get a clear picture from govt and respond to the petition.



Bangalore Times

IIT-Dharwad, 2 more set aside seats for national-level sports medalists

Mumbai: This admission season, three more IIT campuses—Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, IIT-Dharwad and IIT-Mandi—will welcome students not merely for their prowess with numbers, but for their command over shuttlecocks, sticks and mats, **reports Hemali Chhapia**.

The idea, first articulated by Indian Institute of Technology Madras, stems from a long-term objective: to assemble an all-India Team IIT, a sporting phalanx reminiscent of the formidable squads fielded by the Indian Railways.

Two years ago, IIT Madras introduced supernumerary seats for those who had stood on podiums at recognised national championships Then Indian Institute of Technology Indore joined the experiment last year. With three more campuses stepping in, five IITs will now run this initiative. Director V Kamakoti said he was delighted by what he has seen so far. The students admitted through this route, he says, have held their own—on courts as much as in classrooms.

The numbers remain modest. In 2025, IIT Madras received around 150 applications for 38 supernumerary seats; just nine made the final cut.

Mum trial court cites 15-yr jail stay, grants bail to two in 2011 blasts case

Mumbai: Observing that the right to speedy trial has to be considered by the trial court not only in letter but also in spirit, a special court on Friday granted bail to two men accused in the 2011 triple bomb blasts case, **reports Rebecca Samervel**.

It said their prolonged incarceration of nearly 15 years outweighed statutory restrictions on bail. Naquee Shaikh (37) and Haroon Naik (48), lodged in Taloja Central Prison, sought relief on the grounds of trial delay and parity with a co-accused recently released by Bombay HC. "The provisions of the Constitution are to be considered not only by the constitutional courts but by trial courts as well. The accused's bail plea has to be considered, particularly when the co-accused is granted bail in the same case, on the ground of long incarceration," said special judge Satyanarayan R Navander.

Last year, HC granted bail to a co-accused, Kafeel Ahmed Ayub. Another accused was granted the release in Feb. The judge also noted that although 202 witnesses have been examined, over 100 remain, making it unlikely for the trial to conclude in the near future.

'Gates opened only after multiple objections'

▶ Continued from page 1

The programme was organised by the department of political science. The incident took place around noon. Posters on campus show the programme was an international conference on 'Viksit Bharat @2047 and World Order', with dignitaries from outside invited.

A screengrab shows a security guard locking the gate

Videos circulating online show students gathered at the gate, arguing with guards. Some of them are heard saying they had "family emergencies" and needed to leave, while a guard is heard replying that the gate was locked on the "instructions of the principal" and that students had to join the event in the auditorium. In the clip, one is heard telling the guard that her parents were calling her up and asking why she was unable to leave. The students alleged that the gates were opened only after a large group assembled at the entrance and raised objections. According to them, multiple events were scheduled on the campus that day, including a certificate course session on menstrual health and hygiene organised in collaboration with Unesco at a different venue. They claimed that they were being pushed to attend the programmes to ensure adequate turnout.

They said that making attendance a prerequisite for such events is a common practice at the college. They alleged that they are often required to attend events and are marked present for their classes only at the venue.

Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation Government of Himachal Pradesh (ADB)

P57133-001-Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh (ADB Funded)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date of publication : 16.04.2026

1. The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB) under Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Himachal Pradesh ("the Employer"), invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system "Open Competitive bidding (OCB), One Stage Two envelop (1S2E)" for the under mentioned work from the eligible Bidders.
2. The details of Contract Package are as follow:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security (INR)	Document Download Start and time	Pre-bid Meeting (online/ offline)	Deadline for submission/ opening of technical bid and time
1.	"Rafting Complex and Way Side Amenities at Nadaun, Distt. Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh Contract Package Invitation for Bids No. SITDP-HP_W07/2026/.	6.33 million	16.04.2026 at 18:00 Hrs.	24.04.2026 at 15:00 Hrs	08.05.2026 i) Deadline of Submission- 15:00 Hrs ii) Technical Bid Opening-16:00 Hrs
2.	Period of completion.	24 months			

3. **Availability of Bid Document. Key dates, mode of submission and all other details:** The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in.
4. Date of Opening of Financial Bids (Will be later intimated to all technically responsive bidders).

(--SD--)
The Project Director
Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism
Development Project in Himachal Pradesh
Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB)
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation
Shanti Bhawan, Phase-3, Sector -6,
Kangnadhar, BCS, Shimla-171009, HP, India
Tel: +91-177-2659962, 2659926, 2659925
Email: projectdirector.adbhp@gmail.com , Website: www.himachaltourism.gov.in

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BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092.

No:BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/01/2026-27 **Date: 10-04-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC from eligible Tenderers for the work detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the Works
1.	Construction of following skywalks under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) based on Dynamic Duration model under Commercial Advertisement rights Near Malabar Junction (H.B.R Layout, K.P.T.C.L Theme Park) Outer Ring Road, Sarvagnanagara. (Call-2) **EMD: ₹ 5.00 Lakhs.**
2.	Construction of following skywalks under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) based on Dynamic Duration model under Commercial Advertisement rights at Hains Road, Hains Junction in ward No.78, Pulakeshinagara (Call-2) **EMD: ₹ 5.00 Lakhs.**
3.	Construction of following skywalks under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) based on Dynamic Duration model under Commercial Advertisement rights at Charles School, Hennur Main Road, in ward No.60, Pulakeshinagara (Call-2) **EMD: ₹ 5.00 Lakhs.**
4.	Construction of following skywalks under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) based on Dynamic Duration model under Commercial Advertisement rights at Wheelers Road, Sindhi Colony in Ward No.78, Pulakeshinagara (Call-2) **EMD: ₹ 5.00 Lakhs.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of RFP: **13-04-2026.** (2) Last Date for Tender queries: **21-04-2023** up to **3:00** PM. (3) Pre bid Meeting on **21-04-2026** at **3:00** pm @ office of Chief Engineer, Zone-1, BNCC, 2nd Floor, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore -92 (4) Last Date for Receipt of Tender is **04-05-2026** up to **4:00** PM. (5) Date of opening of Technical Bid is **05-05-2026** by **4:30** PM. (6) Date of opening of financial Bid after approval of Technical bid

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC

6001/12/2627

The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO.: 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com
www.omfed.com

E-Tender

OMFED invites techno-commercial offers from experienced bidders for Supply, Installation, testing, Commissioning and Trial run of Boiler Chimney required for 02 MTPH coal fired boilers installed at Sambalpur Dairy & Balasore Dairy. The e-tender is invited on-line through 'e'-procurement of Govt. of Odisha web Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** and **http://www.omfed.com**. The Bid documents will be available in the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** from 10.00 AM of 11.04.2026 to 02.00 PM of 02.05.2026. The technical bid shall be opened at 03.00 PM. of 04.05.2026 at OMFED Corporate office in the presence of the interested bidders. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid document or part thereof without assigning any reason.

Sd/- **Managing Director**
OIPR-6001/6063/1/26-27/0005

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in
GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India CIN : U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD - Chemistry, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the supply of:

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 141/DMP/STP/50007619** dated 10/04/2026 1) "Annual O&M Contracts for STP Plant and Township at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt. Tam Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications."

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 10/04/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GATP-34/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10398

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office:- PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Contact No. 96461-22955, 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ-2378/PO-P

Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 3-Phase, 11KV, 75 Amp, Single Throw, Single Break GO switches as per IS/IEC 62271 Series for High-voltage switchgear and control gear & as per PSPCL specification no. QQ-2378/PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 11.04.2026 onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc. punjab.gov.in
C 475/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10394

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Toll Free No.–18001805129
Email: dgm_pd@alimco.in
Website: www.alimco.in

EOI Ref. No.: PT/EoI/01/BE, dated 11/04/2026
CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is a Schedule 'B' Miniratna Category II Central Public Sector Enterprises, registered under Section 8 (Not for Profit motive) of the Companies Act 2013, (corresponding to Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956) is functioning under the Administrative Control of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. It is 100% owned Govt. of India Central Public Sector Enterprises with an objective of benefiting the persons with disability to the maximum extent possible by manufacturing Rehabilitation Aids for persons with disabilities and by promoting, encouraging and developing the availability, use, supply and distribution of Artificial Limbs and other Rehabilitation Aids to the disabled persons of the country. Profitability is not the motive of the operations of the Corporation and its main thrust is in providing better quality of Aids & Appliances to larger number of disabled persons at reasonable price.

In endeavor to enhance outreach of benefits of ADIP scheme by providing aids and assistive devices to Persons with Disabilities across the country, ALIMCO has started the opening of Pradhanmantri Vayoshri Divyasha Kendra (PMDVK) at National Institutes (NIs) and Satellite/ Regional Centers working under DEPwD, Govt. of India on PAN India basis.

ALIMCO is the only manufacturing company producing various types of assistive devices under one roof to serve all types of disabilities across the country. As ALIMCO is on the way to establish AT Marts on pan India with the solution of high end ATs. ALIMCO thus invites EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR Transfer of Technology/ /Country Sales Partner/Distribution Ship, to incubate start-up either in the premises of ALIMCO/AAPCs OR in as per mutually agreed location through proper MoU with ALIMCO in the field of High End ATs, AI Integration in Assistive Technology & Industry 4.0 Transformation which shall remain open ended and any entity can submit application seeing the website of the Corporation.

Deputy General Manager
(Design & Development, IT and Maintenance)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
Phone No.-96461-18774, Email id:- semeteringpatiala@gmail.com

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-264/2026-27/PO(M) dated 10.04.2026

Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for Procurement of LT Ring Type, Resin cast, Metering Current Transformers (CTs) of ratio 200/5A of Accuracy Class-0.5S conforming to IS: 16227 Part-I & II.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 10.04.2026, 11:30 AM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C 477/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10399

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Notice No. 2026-April-03 dated 09.04.2026

E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N. C. Rly Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following works. The details of the tender are as under :

SN : 1	**Tender No.: 2026-April-03-01**	**Approx Cost Rs.: 33469993.25**
Description of Work : Construction of relay huts for gate signaling at all non-interlocked level crossing (16 nos.) having TVU>10000 at remaining LC gates of Agra Division.		
SN : 2	**Tender No.: 2026-April-03-02**	**Approx Cost Rs.: 52074897.50**
Description of Work : Raising of platform, no 1 & 2/3 to high level for recoupment of shortfall in Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) at Udi More station.		
SN : 3	**Tender No.: 2026-April-03-03**	**Approx Cost Rs.: 16998274.00**
Description of Work : Provision of Side Sheet, grouting to prevent seepage of water at Various LHS in AGC-DHO section.		

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **"www.ireps.gov.in"** Tenders can only be submitted through web portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** up to **15:00** hrs on **30.04.2026.** 778/26 (D)

North central railways @ CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

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PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813.
Website: www.pspcl.in
(O/o Controller of Stores & Disposal (South), PSPCL, Patiala)
(Email - cosandds@gmail.com, Mobile no. - 96461-19412, 96461-48165)

Scrap e-Auction Notice

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) will conduct a forward e-auction on 15.04.2026 for the disposal of approximately 46698 Damaged/Unserviceable Distribution Transformers (Approximate Total Start price Rs. 74.50 crores), lying at various Transformer Receiving Yards and General Scrap, Battery Scrap, E-waste, Plastic Waste (Approximate Total Start price Rs. 3.90 crores) lying in various central Stores, TRYs and Outlet stores across Punjab, offered in separate multiple lots for each location. The e-auction will be conducted on the website portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/index_new.jsp. The Detailed auction catalogue with Terms & Conditions of e-auction, corrigendum and material list etc. will be available on the website https://www.mstcindia.co.in/content/Forthcoming_e_Auctions_For_All_regions.aspx and on https://www.pspcl.in/e-auction-notice.aspx. For queries related to registration, please contact at Phone No. 7229068247 or 7230022882.
C 474/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10393

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore – 560079. Phone: +91-80-29619801 Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com

No: KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/CH/TND/47/2025-26 Date: 10.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: Tender Notification No:
1. KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/CH/TND/47/2025-26 (IND 0374) Date: 18.03.2026.
2. KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/NCD/PD/TND/48/2025-26 (IND 0375) Date: 18.03.2026.
3. KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/PMABHIM/IPHL/TND/49/2025-26 (IND 0376) Date: 18.03.2026.
4. KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/MH/15TH FC /TND/50/2025-26 (IND 0377) Date: 18.03.2026.

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. TENDER FOR SUPPLY INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT UNDER CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMME - IND 0374
2. TENDER FOR SUPPLY INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT UNDER NCD PROGRAMME - IND 0375
3. TENDER FOR SUPPLY INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT UNDER PMABHIM PROGRAMME - IND 0376
4. TENDER FOR SUPPLY INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT UNDER MATERNAL PROGRAMME - IND 0377

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **04.02.2026**. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

DIPR/CP/144 /AKAR/2026-27

Sd/- General Manager (A&P)
KSMSCL, Bangalore

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(O/o Controller of Stores & Disposal (North), PSPCL, Ludhiana)
(Email-cosanddn2023@gmail.com, Mobile no.-96461-18761, 96461-22966)

Scrap e-Auction Notice

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) will conduct a forward e-auction on 22.04.2026 for the disposal of approximately 39354 Damaged/Unserviceable Distribution Transformers (Approximate Total Start price Rs. 56 crore), lying at various Transformer Receiving Yards across Punjab, offered in separate multiple lots for each location. The e-auction will be conducted on the website portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/index_new.jsp. The Detailed auction catalogue with Terms & Conditions of e-auction, corrigendum and material list etc. will be available on the website https://www.mstcindia.co.in/content/Forthcoming_e_Auctions_For_All_regions.aspx and on https://www.pspcl.in/e-auction-notice.aspx. For queries related to registration, please contact at Phone No. 7229068247 or 7230022882.
C 482/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10410

Government of Karnataka
Department of School Education
Office of The Commissioner, New Public Offices, Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, Phone: 080-22213129

No.DPI/2026-27/1ND0661 **Date: 10.04.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement System)

The Director (Minority), Office of the Commissioner, Department of School Education, Bengaluru - 01 invites tender as per the KTPP Act, 1999 from the Manufacturer / Dealer / Suppliers for Supply of Sandals to the Students studying in Government Higher Primary & High Schools in the State of Karnataka for the year 2026-27 through e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Registered bidders can upload their applications on the portal until 5.30 PM on 27.4.2026. The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and should submit through e-procurement System Only.

Sd/-
The Director (Minority),
Office of the Commissioner,
Department of School Education

DIPR/CP/JA/156/2026-27

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Ramamurthy Nagar Division, N.R.I. Layout Main Road, Next to Indira Canteen, Kalkere, Bengaluru-560016.

No:EE/RMN/BECC/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Short Term)
(Only through KPP Portal)
Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Ramamurthy Nagar Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The Tenderers shall be registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike /CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES/ any State or Central Govt. organization.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	**Improvement to Roads & Drains at Lake View Garden Layout, K.Channasandra and Surrounding area Cross Roads in Kalkere ward No.88 (Call-2).** Estimate Cost in lakhs: **Rs.50.00.** EMD (in Rs.): **1,00,000/-.**
2.	**Improvement to Roads & Drains at K. Channasandra village, Lake view garden and Surrounding area Cross Roads in Kalkere ward No.88 (Call-2).** Estimate Cost in lakhs: **Rs.25.00.** EMD (in Rs.): **50,000/-.**

Calendar of events: 1) Availability of Tender documents: **15.04.2026.** 2) Pre bid meeting: **18.04.2026 at 3.00 p.m.** 3) Last date of receipt of queries: **18.04.2026 upto 2.00 p.m.** 4) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **23.04.2026 upto 4.00 p.m.** 5) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **24.04.2026 at 4.30 p.m.** 6) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated after obtaining approval for Technical Evaluation.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Ramamurthy Nagar Division, Zone-2, BECC.

32001/47/2627

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MEGALIFT, BHUBANESWAR
Plot No: A - 8/2, 1st Floor, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751022 (Odisha)
ମୁଖ୍ୟଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବୃହତ୍ ଉଠା ଜଳଯୋଜନା, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର
ପ୍ଲଟ ନଂ: – ଏ – ୮/୨ , ପ୍ରଥମ ମହଲା, ଭୋଇ ନଗର , ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର – ୭୫୧୦୨୨ (ଓଡ଼ିଶା)
E-mail - cemlpwr.od@gmail.com, Phone: 91-0674-2567252, Fax: 91-0674-2567258

No. 2833/ Dated. 09.04.2026

Tender Cancellation Notice

Bid Identification No.10ML/2025-26

The Tender for the work "Operation and Maintenance of existing 16 nos. schemes with intake points on Ibb, Sapei and Basundhara river having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift **Cluster-XII** in the districts of Sundergarh and Jharsuguda comprising all electro- mechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPL covering culturable command area of 20,832 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 16 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electro-mechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of 5 years on "Turn-key basis", invited vide Bid Identification No. **10ML/2025-26** is hereby cancelled.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer, Megalift Bhubaneswar**
OIPR-32001/32504/1/26-27/0004

10001/36/2627

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH AND CAPITAL HOSPITAL, BHUBANESWAR, DIST-KHORDHA, Email: pgimerch@gmail.com

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Tender
Bid Identification No. CFMS/01/2026
e-Tender Notice No. CFMS/2131 of 2026-27

e-Tender bid is hereby invited from the intending registered manpower service provider/ registered firms, registered NGO/ entrepreneurs having eligibility criteria as mentioned in the RFP for providing **Comprehensive Facility Management Service (CFMS) for PGIMER & CH, BBSR. The RFP will be available in the website of the institution i.e. https://pgimerch.odisha.gov.in** from 13.04.2026 to 12.05.2026. All applications to be submitted online on or before 12.05.2026 by 5.00 PM in the website of this institution.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject the bids without assigning any reason there of.

Sd/-
Director
PGIMER & Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-10001/10277/1/26-27/0001

6001/11/2627

FISHERIES & ANIMAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK
Website: https://fisheries.odisha.gov.in, https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in
Phone: 0671-2414061, Email : director.odifish@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM
No. 4734/Dt. 10.04.2026

In referring to the RFP No. 4220 Dt. 30.03.2026 for Selection of Media Consulting Agency for Social Media Management & Creative Productions, the Corrigendum has been webhosted and uploaded in the Department Website for wide circulation. The bidder may visit the website **https://fard.odisha.gov.in**, **https://fisheries.odisha.gov.in** & **https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in** and download the document for reference.

Sd/-
Director of Fisheries
OIPR-6001/6030/1/26-27/0003

32001/45/2627

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT BHUBANESWAR
Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 02ML/2026-27

On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha

1. **Name of Work:** Operation and Maintenance of existing 16 nos, schemes with intake points on Ibb, Sapei and Basundhara river having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift Cluster-XII in the districts of Sundergarh and Jharsuguda comprising all electro-mechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPL covering culturable command area of 20,832 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 16 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electro-mechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of 5 years on "Turn-key basis".
2. **O&M Period** : 60 (Sixty) calendar months.
3. **Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal** : 13.04.2026, 10 A.M.
4. **Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal** : 27.04.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
5. **Name & address of the officer inviting Bid** : Chief Engineer, Megalift A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Pin-751022

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/- **Chief Engineer, Megalift Bhubaneswar**
OIPR-32001/32504/1/26-27/0002

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(An agency of Greater Bengaluru Authority for SWM)
Reg.Office:30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560051. E-Mail: ceobswml@gmail.com, nodalofficerswm@gmail.com

Ref. No.: CEO/PS/PR/363/2026-27 Dated: 10.04.2026

:: Public Notice ::
For the Information of Bulk Waste Generators (Residential/ Commercial/ Institutional)

Sub: Dissemination of waste management data (waste disposal) to individual members of bulk waste generator entities(RWAs) to file property tax returns for the FY 2026-27 - reg.

Ref: 1. Solid Waste Management Rules-2026.
2. SWM Bye Laws 2020.

This is to inform all general public categorized as Bulk Waste Generators (Residential/ Commercial/ Institutional) as per ref (01&02) that solid waste management user fee is integrated with property tax filing software in which at Sl.No.12; owner/occupier of the property who is an individual members of bulk waste generator entities (RWA) shall have to self-declare the data pertaining to waste management. Step by Step detailed information sought in the software is available at **https://bswml.karnataka.gov.in.**

It becomes necessary for each individual members of bulk waste generator entities (RWA - either adopted in-situ processing or engaged Authorized Waste Processor) to enter the data while filing property tax. If, neither adopted in-situ processing nor engaged Authorized Waste Processor, then individual member of bulk waste generator entity (RWA) shall enter his individual approximate average quantity of waste generation per day to avail BSWML services by paying user fee along with PT.

In this connection, the managing Committee of all bulk waste generator entities (RWAs) is hereby requested to disseminate/share the data of waste management (waste disposal) to individual members of bulk waste generator entities (RWAs) to enable them for hassle free filing of property tax returns for the FY 2026-27. Individual members of bulk waste generator entities to acknowledge the same.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited

DIPR/CP/146/SSC/2026-27

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Lakshmi Shetty
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Mahatma Jyotirao Phule: A Light That Still Shows India the Way

By Narendra Modi

Today, April 11, is a deeply special day for all of us. It is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, one of India's greatest social reformers and a guiding light for generations. This year, the occasion carries even greater significance, as it marks the beginning of his 200th birth anniversary celebrations.

Mahatma Phule was a great reformer. In addition to that, his was a life of moral courage, restless enquiry and unshakable commitment to social good. Mahatma Phule is remembered for the institutions he built and the movements he led. At the same time, his contribution to our civilisational journey lies in the hope he aroused, the confidence he instilled and the strength his thoughts continue to give to millions of people across the nation.

Born in the great state of Maharashtra in 1827, Mahatma Phule emerged from modest beginnings. But his initial hardships never stood in the way of his learning, his courage or his commitment to society. This is a trait that remained with him forever: whatever the challenges may be, one must work hard, acquire knowledge and mitigate those challenges instead of doing nothing about it. From his school days, young Jyotirao was deeply curious and became a voracious reader, often reading books far beyond what children his age were expected to engage with. Years later, he said, "The more questions we generate, the more knowledge emerges from them." Clearly, the spirit of enquiry he was blessed with since his childhood remained constant in his journey.

Throughout his life, learning and education became central to Mahatma Phule's mission. He recognised with rare clarity that knowledge is not a privilege to be guarded, but a force to be shared. At a time when the joys of learning were denied to many, he opened pioneering schools for girls and for those kept out of formal education. He used to say, "Any improvement that comes in children through mothers is deeply valuable. Therefore, if schools are to be opened, they should first be opened for girls." He worked to create a new social imagination in which the classroom became an instrument of justice and equality.

His vision for education inspires us greatly. Over the last decade, we have worked to make research and innovation a cornerstone for the youth of India. Efforts are being made to create an ecosystem where young minds are encouraged to question, explore and innovate. By investing in knowledge, skills and opportunity, India is empowering its youth to become problem-solvers and drivers of national progress.

Due to his knowledge and wisdom, Mahatma Phule developed a strong understanding of areas such as agriculture, healthcare and rural development. He often said that injustice towards our farmers and workers weakens our society. He saw how social inequalities manifested themselves in daily life, be it in the farms or in villages. Hence, he immersed himself in ensuring dignity for the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalised. At the same time, he made every possible effort to ensure social harmony was maintained.

As we mark the beginning of his bicentenary year, the most fitting tribute to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule is about renewal. Renewal of our commitment to subjects close to his heart, such as education. Renewal of our sensitivity to injustice. Renewal of our faith that society can improve itself from within. His life tells us that the power of community can achieve miracles in India when joined with moral clarity and public purpose. That is why he still gives strength to millions

Mahatma Phule opined, "जोपर्यंत समाजातील सर्वांना समान अधिकार मिळत नाहीत, तोपर्यंत खरे स्वातंत्र्य मिळत नाही (True freedom cannot be achieved until everyone in society is granted equal rights)." And for that, he built institutions that translated this vision into action, contributing to a just society. The Satyashodhak Samaj, founded by him, was one of the most important social reform movements in modern India. It was at the forefront of social reform, community service and furthering human dignity. It became an effective voice for women, youngsters and those living in villages. This movement reflected Mahatma Phule's intrinsic belief that society could be strengthened by placing at its core justice, respect for every person and a spirit of collective progress.

His personal life, too, carried lessons in courage. Always working and being among the people took a toll on his health. But even the most serious health challenges did not dim his resolve. After suffering a debilitating stroke, he continued to work and fulfil his vision. Yes, his body had been tested, but his commitment to society had not yielded. For millions today, especially those who draw courage from struggle, this remains one of the most powerful dimensions of his life.

No remembrance of Mahatma Phule can be complete without a respectful mention of Savitribai Phule, who was herself one of the tallest reformers of our nation. As one of India's pioneering women teachers, she played a defining role in advancing education for girls, thus giving them the opportunity to pursue their dreams. After Mahatma Phule's passing, Savitribai carried forward that torch and, in 1897, during a plague outbreak, she served victims with such devotion that she herself contracted the disease and lost her own life.

Our land has been blessed, time and again, by great men and women who have strengthened society through thought, sacrifice and action. They did not wait for change to arrive from somewhere else. They became its source. For hundreds of years in our land, the clarion call for social betterment has often risen from within society itself, from those who could see suffering clearly and refused to accept it as fate. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule was one such voice.

I fondly recall my visit to Pune in 2022, when I had offered tributes to Mahatma Phule at his grand statue in the city. As we mark the beginning of his bicentenary year, the most fitting tribute to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule is about renewal. Renewal of our commitment to subjects close to his heart, such as education. Renewal of our sensitivity to injustice. Renewal of our faith that society can improve itself from within. His life tells us that the power of community can achieve miracles in India when joined with moral clarity and public purpose. That is why he still gives strength to millions. That is why his words and work still carry hope. And that is why, nearly two hundred years after his birth, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule remains not a figure of the past, but a guide for India's future.

(The writer is PM of India)

Goyal assures supply chain support to Gulf counterparts

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal has held talks with his counterparts from the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council and assured India's support in addressing supply chain challenges, especially food.

During his calls, he underlined the need to maintain peace in the region that has come under attack from Iran which hit countries for their perceived proximity to the US. Given the large Indian diaspora in the Gulf region, the minister also expressed govt's appreciation for the support extended to them during the crisis. "UAE's proactive logistics measures", including opening of alternate routes and multimodal transport also came up for discussion with his counterpart Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi as Dubai Ports accounts for nearly a quarter of the global goods trade from India. TNN

Attendance shortage: LLB student blames it on too much fast food

Ahmedabad: A fourth-year LLB student of Gujarat's Marwadi University, barred from appearing in exams for failing to meet the mandatory 75% attendance, submitted before high court that his prolonged absence from classes was due his dietary habits that stemmed from consuming pizzas and burgers over several months.

The student had approached the Gujarat high court seeking relief so that his academic progression would not be affected. The university, on the other hand, stressed attendance rules to justify the student's ineligibility to appear in exams. HC suggested to find solution to save student's academic year. On Friday, the university came up with a proposal. The student, who had missed mid-term-I, which carried 15% weightage, could still appear for mid-term-II and the final exams. Not willing to forgo 15% in lost marks, he refused the proposal. TNN

In MP village, a swear word invites ₹500 fine

Indore: In this village in Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur district, a swear word, even if not aimed at anyone, can not only extract a stiff fine out of your pocket but also compel you to pick up the broom, **reports Karishma Kotwal**. Residents of Borsar village have found a unique way to make people regret their loose tongues and verbal slips.

Here, mouthing a swear word attracts a penalty of Rs 500, or worse, sweeping the streets that you swore on. Nearly 6,000 residents have made civility a part of local etiquette and a community mission.

"Children as young as 12-13 years had started using abusive language openly. We also witnessed two-three serious disputes recently where people openly mouthed swear words about mothers and sisters. One person would abuse, the other would retaliate in kind. It just kept getting worse," sarpanch Antar Singh said, adding, "We felt the need to put an end to this."

Denied admission, woman gives birth outside Shamli dist hosp gate

Shamli: In an alleged case of medical negligence at the district combined hospital in Shamli, a 30-year-old woman from Baghpat district gave birth to a baby boy on the roadside outside the hospital gate after staff allegedly demanded money and refused to admit her to the facility, **reports Sachin Sharma.**

Kaushar Begum, a resident of Asara village in Baghpat, was brought to the hospital late Thursday evening after experiencing labour pains. She was first taken to Kandhla community health centre, from where doctors referred her to the district hospital. Her husband, a daily-wage labourer, said the hospital staff declined to admit her, claiming that delivery would only be possible through surgery and that her delivery date was not yet due. The family alleged that the staff demanded money for admission.

INDIA DIGEST

HAL hands over 4 choppers to Coast Guard

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited on Friday handed over four ALH-Mk3 Maritime Role helicopters to the Indian Coast Guard, meeting its delivery timeline under a current contract and bolstering the force's operational capabilities at sea. The delivery was part of a nine-helicopter contract signed in March 2024.

Boy who halted e-fraud to headline awareness drive?

Bareilly police are planning to appoint Tanmay Saxena, 13, who saved his parents from 'digital arrest' as he had read about it in TOI, as brand ambassador for their cyber fraud awareness campaign

Man gets death for 4-yr-old's rape & murder: A special Pocso court in Odisha's Angul district sentenced a 40-year-old man to death for the rape and murder of a four-year-old in March last year. This is the third capital punishment handed down in Odisha this year.

U'khand HC acquits 3 in murder case: Uttarakhand HC has set aside the 2014 conviction of three men in a 2008 case in which an elderly woman was shot dead and her grandson suffered bullet injuries, saying prosecution failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt.

Advertisement No.: 43/2026

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of

DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL)
IN
ENGINEERS INDIA LIMITED (EIL)

Last date of submission of application by the applicant is by 15:00 hours on
30/04/2026
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on
11/05/2026

For details login to website: https://pesb.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that the undersigned Advocates are investigating the title and ownership right of **Dr. M. J. Mohan**, son of Dr. M. V. Jayaraman, residing at No.16, 1st Main Road, Vasanthnagar, near Kodava Samaj, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru – 560 052 ("**Owner**"), in respect of the lands as described in the schedule below ("**Schedule Properties**") in relation to a transaction proposed to be undertaken by our Client with the Owner. The Owner has represented that subject to the relinquishments made by the Owner as referred to in the schedule below, he is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Properties and no other person/s, entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has any manner of right, title, or interest thereon.

Public is notified that if any person/s, entity, company, firm or institution has or asserts any right, title or interest by way of sale, license, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien, easement, objection, agency, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, assignment, right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit, decree, injunction order or attachment or award passed by any Court or Authority litigation, lis-pendens, decree or order of any adjudicating authority, exchange, partition, power of attorney, will, bequest, tenancy, development rights, family arrangement/settlement, allotment, acquisition, requisition, beneficial right / interest under any trust, pending litigation, claim, demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of this Notice, failing which our Client will proceed with their proposed transaction with the Owner on the assumption that the Owner is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Properties and no third party rights are subsisting on the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of lands described below situated at Hulluru Amanikere Village and Dandupalya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on its as hereunder:

Village: Hulluru Amanikere*

Survey Nos.	Extent A	Extent G	Boundaries East by:	West by:	North by:	South by:
59/1	1	30.5	Property of Sy. No. 59/2 belonging to Dr. M.J. Mohan	Private Property bearing Sy No. 58	Property of Sy. No. 61 belongs to Siddappa	Raja Kaluve
59/2	0	33.5	Property of Sy. No. 59/3 belonging to Dr. M.J.Mohan	Property of Sy. No. 59/1 belonging to Dr. M.J.Mohan	Property of Sy. No. 61 belongs to Siddappa	Raja Kaluve
59/3	0	34	Property of Sy. No. 60	Property of Sy. No. 59/2 belonging to Dr. M.J.Mohan	Property of Sy. No. 61 belongs to Siddappa	Raja Kaluve

Village: Dandupalya*

Survey Nos.	Extent A	Extent G	Boundaries East by:	West by:	North by:	South by:
156/1	3	0	Property of Sy. No.156/2	Property of Sy. No. 155	Water Channel	Property of Sy. No. 151/2 belonging to Dr. M.J.Mohan
151/2	1	34.25	Property of Sy. No. 151/3 belonging to Dr. M.J.Mohan	Property of Sy. No. 151/1 & Sy. No. 152	Property of Sy. No. 156/1 belonging to Dr. M.J.Mohan	NH-4 Road
151/3	0	3.75	Property of Sy. No.151/5	Property of Sy. No. 151/2 belonging to Dr. M.J.Mohan	Property of Sy. No. 156/1 belonging to Dr. M.J.Mohan	NH-4 Road

*The Owner has relinquished (i) about 1514.40 square meters in Survey Nos. 59/1, 59/2 and 59/3 situated in Hulluru Amanikere Village in favour of the Panchayath Development Officer, Doddahulluru Gram Panchayat and (ii) about 2406.02 square metres in Survey Nos. 151/2 and 156/1 situated in Dandupalya Village in favour of Commissioner of City Municipal Council Hoskote both towards road widening by two separate Relinquishment Deeds dated 09.02.2023 both registered in the office of Sub Registrar Hosakote.

Sd/-
N.K. Dilip / S. Raghu Nandana
Tatva Legal Bangalore, Advocates
4th Floor, Phoenix Pinnacle,
No. 46, Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru - 560042

Date : 11.04.2026
Place : Bengaluru

राष्ट्रीय यूनानी चिकित्सा संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF UNANI MEDICINE
कोट्टिगेपाल्या, मागडी मेन रोड, बेंगलुरू – 560 091
Kottigepalya, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore – 560 091.
(भारत सरकार के आयुष मंत्रालय के अधीन एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ayush, Govt.of India)
(एन ए बी एच से मान्यता प्राप्त) /(Accredited to NABH)
Tel: 080- 2358 4260

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that **inpatient case records maintained at National Institute of Unani Medicine Kottigepalya, Magadi Road, Bengaluru** for the period from January **2014 to December 2017** are scheduled for **secure destruction** in accordance with our hospital's **record retention policy** and applicable regulatory guidelines.

Any individual who has a **claim, concern, or requires access** to these records is requested to contact the **Hospital Records Department** or the **undersigned authority** within 45 days from the date of this notice.

Sd/-
CBC 17201/11/0001/2627 Director

Punjab State e-Governance society
O/o Directorate of Good Governance
& Information Technology, Punjab
Plot No.-D 241, Industrial Area, Phase -8B,
Sector-74 Mohali-160062,

Applications are invited for the contractual position of Deputy General Manager-HR (1) with the last date of applications as 01.05.2026 by 11:59 PM. For details, visit https://dit.punjab.gov.in.

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the recruitment notice shall be published on the above website.

DPR/Pb.:1031/12/2026-27/10369
Sd/-
CEO, PSeGS

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एमएसएमई- प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
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An Autonomous body under ministry of MSME, Govt. of India Society
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For Registration

DATE / दिनांक: 18th, 19th, 25th & 26th April 2026 (04 Days)
TIME / समय: 05 PM - 08 PM FEES / शुल्क: 3,540/-

CONTACT: 9092176009 / 9750747571
WEBSITE: www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
CERTIFICATION WILL BE AWARDED

Software Technology Parks of India
(An Autonomous Society under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India)

Employment Notice No. 2(3)/I/STPI-HQ/2025-2026

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) is providing Statutory Services to the exporters under STP/EHTP scheme and also extending infrastructural facilities including High Speed Internet and IPLC links. STPI at present has 71 centers at different locations in the country.

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up Group 'A' S&T vacancy given below. The vacancy is proposed to be filled-up by Absorption/Direct Recruitment/Deputation basis. Appointment made on Absorption/Direct Recruitment basis shall be on probation period of two years which is likely to be regularized/ extended/ terminated depending upon the performance of the candidate during probation period.

Post Code	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Pay Level	Age limit (Max)	
E – 5	Member Technical Staff- E-V, (Scientist 'F')	01 (UR)	Level 13A (Rs. 131100-216600)	For appointment on direct recruitment basis	48 years (Relaxation as per Govt. of India rules)
				For appointment on absorption/ deputation basis	56 years

For information on Essential Qualification and Experience, How to apply, Application Fee, Selection Process, Last date of receipt of online application & General Terms & Conditions etc., the candidates may refer to STPI website **www.stpi.in**

-Sd-
(CAO-cum-Registrar)
STPI

RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL, BENGALURU
(A Residential Public School under Ministry of Defence Govt of India & Affiliated to CBSE, Delhi)
(WALK IN INTERVIEW)
Required Teachers on Contractual basis:-

S/ No	Vacancy	No of vacancy	Salary	Essential Qualification
a	Counsellor	01 (One)	Rs. 25,000/-pm consolidated	Degree in Arts with psychology from a recognized university or Degree of a recognized university with diploma in counseling. Expertise in English in reading, writing and speaking
b	Assistant Master (English)	01 (One)	Rs. 20,000/-pm consolidated	B.A from a recognized university. B Ed from a recognized university. Expertise in English in reading, writing and speaking
c	Assistant Master (Social Studies)	01 (One)	Rs, 20,000/-pm consolidated	B.A from a recognized university. B Ed from a recognized university. Expertise in English in reading, writing and speaking

Desirable Qualification:-
1. Post Graduate in concerned subjects from any recognized University.
2. One year teaching experience from any recognized university (Secondary Level/Class).
3. Basic knowledge of using Microsoft Office in computer.

A walk in interview will be conducted on 22 Apr 2026 at 0900 hrs
Eligible Candidates to report to school directly

Principal

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, KIADB Head Office,
No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Maharshi Aravindha Bhavana Building,
Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No.: Bengaluru/LAQ/Main File/115/2026-27 Date:07.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Government has issued Preliminary Notification as per No.: CI 79 SPQ(E) 2024 Dated 10.09.2024, published in State Gazette Publication dated 23.09.2024, under K.I.A.D. Act 1966 Sec 28(1) for acquiring total 1637-21 1/2 A/G, Kharabu 490-15 1/2 A/G, Jatha 1147-06 A/G. of lands for Industrial Development in Jakkasandra, Shivarapattana, Ramenahalli, Kanivenahalli, Hungenahalli and Varadenahalli Villages, Kasaba Hobli, Maluru Taluk, Kolar District. As per this Notice has been published in Newspapers for the related Khatedars/ Anubhavadars/Interested Persons to appear for enquiry on 09.01.2025 and 10.01.2025 and Notice has been issued as per Sec 28(2).

Furthermore, as there is a need to conduct an enquiry once again, dates for enquiry have been fixed as below. Therefore, it is informed to the persons who have interest in the properties and Authorised Khatedars, to appear for enquiry on the said dates, along with documents at Office of The Special Land Acquisition Officer, KIADB Head Office, KIADB, 5th Floor, Aravinda Bhavana, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru.

Sl. No.	Village	Enquiry Date	Timings
1	Hungenahalli Varadenahalli Jakkasandra	29.04.2026	Morning 11.00
2	Ramenahalli	30.04.2026	Morning 11.00
3	Kanivenahalli Shivarapattana	05.05.2026 07.05.2026	Morning 11.00 Morning 11.00

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer,
KIADB Head Office, N.T. Road, Bengaluru.

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Act of Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

No. AUD/(55)-1(68)/Rect./2026/681 Dated: 30.03.2026

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi is a state university established through Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi Act, 2007 by the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. As one of the few Universities in India with the core objective of promoting the study of humanities and social sciences and it recognises these disciplines as pivotal to the understanding and imagination of a society in transition. University's aim is to reconceptualise social sciences with innovative curricular and pedagogic processes.

The University invites online applications from the prospective & eligible candidates for the following posts as mentioned:

S. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Scale	No. of Posts	Age Limit	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Controller of Examination	Level-14	01 (UR)	Not exceeding 57 years	Direct/Deputation
2.	Medical Officer	Level -10	02 (UR)	Not exceeding 35 years	Direct
3.	Internal Audit Officer	Level -12	01	Not exceeding 56 years	Deputation
4.	Assistant Registrar	Level -10	03	Not exceeding 56 years	Deputation

Note - Please visit University website **https://aud.delhi.gov.in/** for Qualifications, Eligibility Criteria, General Instructions, application form & other details.

Commencement of online application for all posts: 01.04.2026

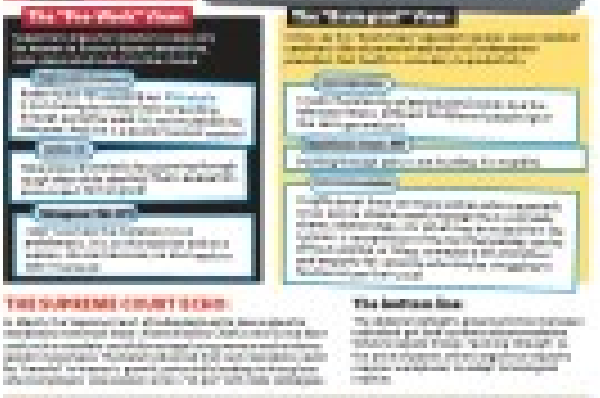
Last date to apply online: 21 days from the publication of the advertisement in the "Employment News".

The Last date for receiving of hard copy of the online application form along with supporting documents: 28 days from the publication of the advertisement in the "Employment News"

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0012/26-27
REGISTRAR
Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Bangalore Times

Sreeleela's "no excuse" take on periods divides public opinion



A thought for today

Invention, it must be humbly admitted, does not consist in creating out of void, but out of chaos

MARY SHELLEY

Black Magic

Smart use of coal can shield India from foreign crises

When Trump's blockade left Cuba without oil last month, 56-year-old Juan Carlos Pino modified his 1980 Fiat Polski to run on charcoal (bit.ly/41XQzqd). No, he didn't strap on a steam engine. Rather, the eighth-pass mechanic added a homemade gasifier – a closed tank for heating charcoal chips, to make combustible gas – at the back. Now imagine, what an army of PhDs might do with wood chips, or coal. You can look at China, which is sitting pretty amid a global crisis of oil, gas and urea. Only because it taught itself to make urea, methanol, and basic chemicals like ethylene and propylene – needed to make plastics, textiles, etc – from coal rather than petroleum.

China, like India, has many hundreds of billion tonnes of coal. And it makes 78% of its urea from coal, not gas. So, this year, its farmers aren't worried about higher fertiliser prices. They aren't reducing corn acreage, while US farmers are. Their chicken feed and ethanol prices won't rise. Speaking of ethanol, India's E20 programme will also feel the impact of higher urea prices. Whereas China, world's biggest producer of methanol – mostly derived from coal – will have no problem supplying "M15" or even "M85" fuel for cars. It's even started making massive oil tankers that can run on methanol, instead of oil.

China, however, is not a coal-to-liquid-fuels pioneer. Germany's 27 coal liquefaction plants made 33mn barrels of gasoline every year, during WW2. S Africa, in the 1980s, made 83.5mn barrels of gasoline a year from coal. With world's fourth largest deposits, India should also use its coal smartly. It has an old plan to gasify 100mn tonnes of coal by 2030. It's also building a 1.2mn tonne-per-annum coal-based urea plant at Talcher, Odisha. Deadline was 2023, and it would have served us well at this time. But it won't be ready until Dec 2027. We need better PhDs, of course, but also better project managers.

Haute Food, Fast Food

Why gastronomic puritanism doesn't work

Mon Dieu! France, the Mecca of haute cuisine, is undergoing a gastronomic counterrevolution – rise of fast food chains. The hottest food joint in elegant Paris today, is a takeout that serves chicken tenders, over rice. Queues are long, and the buzz is on. Exit fine dining, pretty or elegant restaurants, celebrity chefs. Bring on Gen-Z, influencer-driven, no-nonsense eateries. Shocking fact: more than half of French restaurants' annual revenue is generated by fast food. *Naturellement*, gastronomic puritans in *la* France are exclaiming *sacré bleu!*

But can haute cuisine truly be fire-walled from fast food? It hasn't worked out like that anywhere. From Japan to Peru, China to Morocco, fine culinary arts have had to share space with cheap fast food. More so after the advent of industrialisation, when meal times – from preparation to consumption – shrank. And that's okay. India is a great example, where high and popular cuisines happily co-exist, sometimes inspiring each other. The *shahi tukda* went from royal kitchens where it was made with clotted cream, to its street avatar: bread fried in *ghee*. The popular *biryani* evolved from royal Persian *pilaf*.

None of this diminished Indian culinary diversity & tradition. So, the humble *vada pav* is as sought after as the exquisite-but-labour-intensive *ker sangri*. True, slow food scores on nutritional value. But fast food is about convenience. There's no need for them to be mutually exclusive, just for the sake of gastronomic puritanism. *Bon Appétit!*

World According To Military Mapping

Why constant state of war seems the new normal

The World According to Military Targeting unsettles. ***Erik Reichborn-Kjennerud*** argues that military targeting (identifying, tracking, and striking targets) has been turned into a worldview, which sorts reality into targets and threats. It's a way of *seeing* the world – as a grid of threats, even before it takes form and shape.

In the process, war stops being an event. Military targeting becomes a permanent *organising logic* for expanding the battlefield to the entire world. In doing so, it normalises endless war. "Violent operations" are now fundamental to "knowledge production of war and warfare."

The book begins with former director of NSA and CIA, Michael Hayden, describing how "the American war-fighting machine was reconfigured and revamped", as a global manhunt, in service of US's 'war on terror'. It re-organised the way US military, and its 'martial organisations' (an ecosystem of intelligence gathering) imagined, assembled, and ultimately, waged war.

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

The global manhunt inverted the Cold War paradigm of 'easy-to-find, hard-to-kill' – where Soviet Union was a monolithic threat – to 'hard-to-find but easy-to-kill', where networked individuals, targeted by the manhunt, were "elusive, hidden, and mobile".

The book details the impact of tech advances on military apparatus – with each leap, targeting grew in space, time and depth. Insurgents exist in complex terrains, but in digital communications, they leave digital footprints – chatter, location, movement. So, intelligence apparatus could map actors and their movement, over time, and in real time. When threats were identified, they could be tracked.

But not all threats could be 'identified'. To be a threat, there has to be, what the military-security world calls, a signature. But not every emerging threat left a signature. They went about their day doing normal things, like normal people.

Then what? Bosses said, widen the net, collect everyone's data everywhere, at all times, let anomalies show. But anomaly, without context or meaning (human inputs), is not actionable intelligence. One has to know *how* machine learning (ML) arrived at its output. But ML doesn't give you context, or meaning – only 'accuracy'. So, military targeting, the book argues, has become *data deciding* the *emergence* of the enemy.

The enemy doesn't have to exist. It could *become* the enemy in the future. In short, the book argues, the enemy can be Imagined. Military targeting, then, no longer *defines* an enemy. It can be produced by data tech.

When LLMs, and so-called AI, flagged 'behaviour', the operation logic behind war moved from "predict to preempt". From targeting 'known unknowns', military intelligence machinery has moved into 'unknown unknowns' – the term for which Rumsfeld got fair flak. Tough to find needles in a haystack? Build haystacks. Whatever sticks out, call that a needle.

Contemporary targeting seeks "future beginnings" of threats, even *facilitating* their occurrence. The goal, the book argues, is to *experiment* – observe response, encourage action, gather more data, and continue experimenting. Errors (like bombing a school) are part of that experimental "tinkering" – internalised as learning. "Probe, perturb, incite" – disrupt the system, to capture more feedback.

This transformation – in how targeting maps the world – "forecloses alternatives, limits horizons of possibilities, and constrains our understanding of potential futures". It should give us pause, says the book. And make us understand that it's essential we understand how militaries map the world, and create the enemy.

Miller Time, Miller's Crossing

What a dramatic IPL match this week told us about cricket and life

Avijit Ghosh

IPL, in its very construct, is anti-memory. Few sporting moments survive the night. Only a blur of images remain until the following day, when the act repeats itself. It's like watching the same film on a loop, cricket's version of the 1993 Bill Murray film, *Groundhog Day*.

Wednesday night, though, was slightly different. The game's outcome spawned a furious debate, beyond usual social media farming. It was about a choice made by Delhi Capitals batter David Miller. Here's what transpired.

With two balls remaining, the home side needed one run to tie the score and two to win. Miller had the opportunity to take a single off the fifth ball. But he decided against it, unwilling to expose his partner Kuldeep Yadav, a batting minnow. But Miller failed to connect the last ball, a disguised slow delivery, bravely bowled by Gujarat Titans paceman Prasidh Krishna. The two batters set off for a bye but fell short. DC lost by one run.

Miller's refusal of the single – which at worst, would have sent the game into a Super Over thereafter – became a major talking point, and headlined most match reports. Many felt the move was a serious lapse of judgement; some even cruelly attributed it to a South African tendency: choking in key moments of white ball cricket.

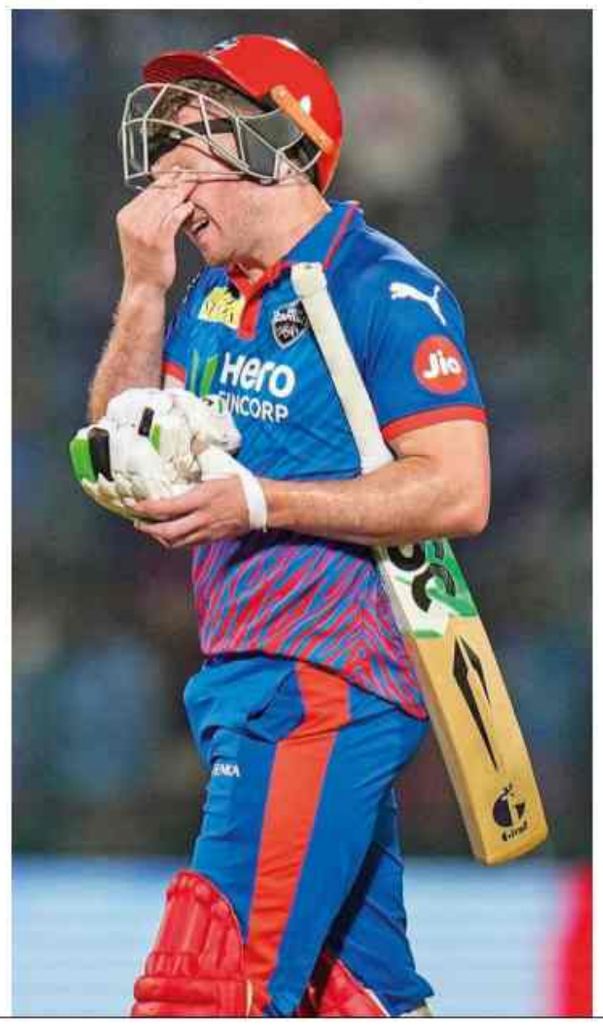
But what transpired on the pitch demands a deeper reflection. Perhaps, Miller's choice was guided by instinct, but it is also a marker of larger principles, which underpin decision-making in life. Thousands suggested, with post-facto wisdom, that Miller should have opted for percentage play, which translates to taking the run, and leaving the batting minnow to finish the job.

But, for a designated finisher, would that have been smart play, or just abandonment of responsibility? Remember, he had smacked the last over's fourth delivery out of the stadium. That made an unlikely win look like a near-given. To add further perspective, Miller had hurt his hand, and had retired earlier. When he returned midway 17th over, 51 runs were needed off 20 balls. Without his late flurry of sixes, Delhi Capitals were nowhere in the contest.

For most in love with light alcohol, Miller Time is an American beer, sometimes seen on Indian liquor retail shelves. But to anyone who follows global franchise cricket, the term specifically indicates the Natal-born batter's arrival, in the game's desperate overs.

The term also functions as a code – it carries the weight of crushing expectations. Irrespective of the situation and odds, Miller's big hitting is expected to swing the game in his team's favour.

The South African saw pressure as privilege, as tennis legend Billie Jean King once said. That motto enables this peripatetic cricketer to ply his trade in every country with a functional T20 league, for over a decade and half. Miller, now 36, has played every IPL since 2011. That includes nine years for Punjab Kings, where his late, six-hitting charges electrified stadiums, during pre-teen years of cricket's ritziest carnival.



Most top cricketers win matches. Not many can turn around games that look lost. Miller can. He did it for Kings XI Punjab and for Gujarat Titans. In 2022, he plundered an unbeaten 94 off 51, for GT against CSK. Chasing 170, Titans were tottering at 16/3, when Miller decisively intervened. The same year, his late hitting fired GT to a title triumph.

Like any long-time pro, Miller has also experienced heartbreak. Who would forget Suryakumar Yadav's unforgettable catch off Miller's aerial shot, in the 2024 T20 World Cup final. Another millimetre further, and it could have been South Africa, not India, celebrating after the game.

But he partially redeemed himself in the T20 World Cup this year. In the Super Eight game against India, the Proteas were at a troubled 20/3. Miller's 63 off 35 was fundamental to India's lone loss in a title-winning campaign. Performances like these ensure the left-hander remains in global demand. As per iplsalary.in, he has earned ₹77.5cr from IPL, in 16 seasons.

Before the final over's final delivery on Wednesday, Miller did the honest thing: betting on his own ability, rather than on a partner with far less batting skills. He was the odds-on favourite to finish the job. He failed. But that's cricket.

Sometimes the clock misses Miller Time. Thankfully DC captain, Axar Patel, among India's most underfeted cricketers, understood that. Sometimes life is closer to *Miller's Crossing*, the poetic 1990 gangster movie by the Coen brothers, which ends in melancholy for its protagonist.

We love heroes, but we also relish fall guys, best exemplified by the old tv show, *Match Ka Mujrim*, where ex-cricketers zeroed in on the player, allegedly, responsible for a defeat. Miller's choice creates an alternative template for all of us: follow your conviction, and do what you believe is the right thing, even if the outcome doesn't go your way sometimes.

PS: On Thursday, Mukul Choudhary, a 21-year-old, from Jhunjhunu district, north-eastern Rajasthan, became an overnight IPL sensation, producing an improbable match-winning performance for LSG. Like Miller, Mukul too was foxed by the "slower one", in the game's last delivery. But unlike in the previous match, the keeper's throw missed the mark. True, the situation was slightly different. But both say the same thing: there's a thin line between agony and ecstasy.

On Telling Your Partner The Worst Thing You Ever Did

It's a risky game. As a new movie, *The Drama*, shows, radical honesty can also be radically destabilising for your relationship. And do each of our darkest thoughts really need sharing?

Renuka.Bisht @timesofindia.com

Last year, it was *Materialists*. This year, it's *The Drama*. It's as if, after a long winter, spring's here for romcom. This is a genre built around the romantic liaison, with its fictions intimately kinking into actual relationships. With *Materialists*, viewers from Mumbai to Miami, exited theatres bickering over how money matters for love. Now, what *The Drama* has put the spotlight on, is how complicated is forgiveness.

In the movie, this conversation begins with a game. Now, 'relationship games', just like video games, can come in silly to serious variety. '36 Questions to Fall in Love', is a classic, but demanding. From what you feel about your mother, to your highest accomplishment, this quiz, if done rapid-fire style, can get you to reveal a lot. Or get super droll. Ditto for, 'What Would Your Ex Say About You?'

But, the 'What's the Worst Thing You Ever Did?' game, can get beyond serious, to dangerous. To your relationship. Obviously, it's not a first-date activity. In *The Drama*, it's played the week of the wedding. Spoiler: this turns out to be terrible timing. But, really, it's not clear that there's any *good* time for this sort of thing.

Let's assume that both partners show the same radical honesty, instead of one making a knob of the other. If they are lucky, their confessions will be morally equivalent, in their judgement. Examples: I broke x's heart cruelly, cruelly; I stole y's promotion, or property; I secretly watch porn for z hours.

But what if, even though they promised not to judge each other's story, one of them, and only one of them, ends up feeling revolted. What the movie shows is that when the game moves from 'revelation' to 'red line' (one you hadn't even imagined drawing, so shocking is the revelation), the atmosphere in the room shifts instantly. Now, one partner's perception of the other, stands fundamentally altered.

Traditionally, forgiveness was the default option. In a society in which exit from marriage was costly or impossible, it got framed as duty. But as forgiveness becomes a personal choice, people find themselves earnestly weighing, if any compromise hurts their own moral compass. After all, so much of modern love is premised on values-alignment.

The older model risked trapping people in bad relationships, the newer one risks discarding relationships that could grow through difficulty. In *The Drama*, the ending scene has the couple reconnecting at a diner, once again holding hands. But along with so much else, happy endings have also changed. It makes sense. Zendaya is not Meg Ryan, Robert Pattinson is not Billy Crystal, the enduring-ness of their characters' love cannot be that of *When Harry Met Sally* either.

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

Imaged by AI, from a Photograph

Materialists director Celine Song has said, the romcom has gotten a more serious tone, because we're going through a more serious period now. There are lots of ways to interpret this. One is that, just because society no longer dictates our relationship choices in traditional ways, doesn't mean that voices of others have gotten less loud in our head.

When you decide to forgive a partner for something shocking, you're not just making a private emotional choice. You're making a loud declaration that your entire social circle will judge, even on the internet. Your inner self is asking 'Can I live with this?' But it's also worrying, 'What will this say about me, to everyone else?'

Result: even as some people stay in a relationship longer than they should, to avoid the social fallout of leaving, others leave sooner than they might have, to satisfy the court of public opinion around them. It's also why the closing scene in *The Drama*, feels haunted. It's as if all the venomous fights the couple has had, since the big reveal, await just the minorest trigger, just one sarky comment from someone, anyone, to go full metal again. The distance between toxic and happily ever after, never seemed shorter.

Last year, there was a news story from Indore, about 150 couples having called off their weddings, over just 40 days. Most of the breakups were thanks to something spied on social media. But there will be things to be found after marriage too. Our desire to know our partner, inside out, is tireless these days. Don't ask, don't tell, is not an easy sell. Not equitably, anyway.

In *Materialists*, when the Pedro Pascal character lowers himself six inches, to show what he was like before a leg lengthening, it's a visual shock to the audience. In those seconds, he loses so much 'relationship value'. A shocking reveal always does this. Will you have a happily ever after, with a partner who 'values' you much less than before? Maybe, don't take the risk. Keep your secret inside yourself.

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacredspace

It is easy enough to be friendly to one's friends. But to befriend the one who regards himself as your enemy is the quintessence of true religion. The other is mere business.

MK Gandhi

Netas Need Compassion: Why We Must Oblige

Sonal Srivastava

While on a state visit to India in February, France's President Emmanuel Macron, the youngest president in the country's history, was seen jogging in navy-blue shorts and a T-shirt on a dusty sidewalk in Mumbai. In a gazillion videos on social media that captured the health-conscious president keeping up with his fitness regimen, Macron, surrounded by his security team, seemed unbothered by honking cars and the attention that Mumbaikars bestowed on him. Most people in the subcontinent are unaccustomed to seeing their leaders exercising casually or cycling on the streets without a political campaign. For it is an unwritten rule that those in positions of power must display 'executive presence' that is, they must appear calm, composed, and confident to the public eye.

In the Netherlands, outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte rode away on a bicycle from his office in The Hague after handing over to Dick Schoof. Rutte spent 14 years as the PM, yet when it was time to vacate the office, he chose to leave on a cycle. In contrast, netas back home must have iron-clad security so that they do not face threats to their lives.

Power, while enabling leaders to transform lives, can also become an entrapment, binding them to the carefully curated public image, and denying the respect their individuality deserves. Public figures seem to drink from a poisoned chalice; while it propels them to the stratosphere of success; it takes something more subtle away: the capability to act on their own volition without constant scrutiny and criticism. 'Log kya kahenge,' — what will people say, sticks to them like a chewing gum to a shoe sole.

THE SPEAKING TREE

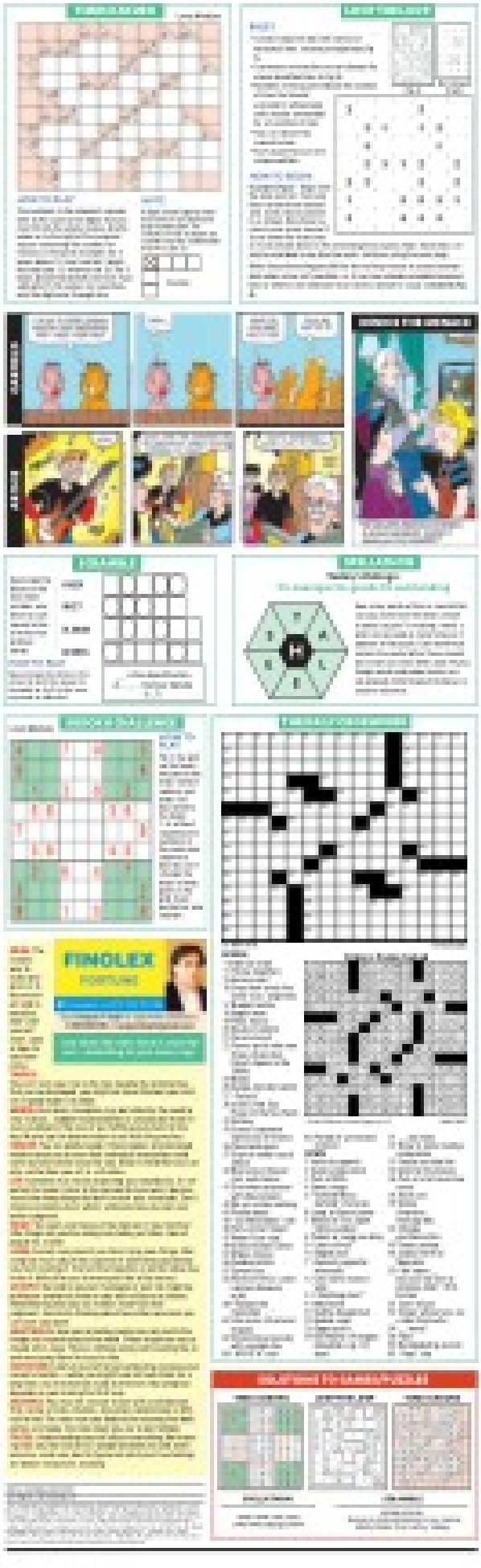
Even sartorial choices are calculated. Leaders dress to convey messages, bond with constituencies, and forge an identity that resonates with voters. However, this very bond places limits on something as simple as wardrobe choices. Men are often expected to wear white kurta-pyjamas, achkans, white shirts and trousers, or a dhoti, depending on where the campaign trail leads.

Women politicians must wear handloom saris representative of Indic culture. They must always act in accordance with what is perceived as virtuous. Take swimming for instance, a woman politician in a bikini is political hara-kiri, a scandal and fodder for the opposition.

It is said that power corrupts, but what is not discussed is how it can be cruel to those who hold it, shrinking their personal space and liberty. Abraham Lincoln is believed to have said, "Character is like a tree and reputation its shadow. The shadow is what we think it is, and the tree is the real thing."

Even strong trees need nurturing. Just like us, our leaders, too, need compassion. Only if they are allowed to be human will politics become more humane. "If you want others to be happy, practise compassion. If you want to be happy, practise compassion," and "Only the development of compassion and understanding for others can bring us tranquillity and happiness we all seek," says The Dalai Lama, and we should pay heed.

Public figures must be held accountable, but they should also be allowed to simply be. So, if a woman leader wants to enjoy a peaceful swim in an itsy, bitsy, teenie, weenie, yellow, polka dot bikini, we must let her be.



TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

The Week That Was...

Indices Log Best Week In 5 Yrs On Ceasefire Hopes

Equity indices broke a six-week losing streak on Friday as a fragile US-Iran ceasefire eased investor anxiety and pushed Brent crude prices down 12%. Sensex and Nifty both rose nearly 6% for the week, closing at 77,550 and 24,051 points respectively

6.9%
Reserve Bank of India has projected India's real GDP to grow at 6.9% in FY27, moderating from an estimated 7.6% in FY26

Source: screener.in, ETIG, Reuters

Stiff rules stay for Tata Sons as revised NBFC norms widen net

RBI's New Approach Removes Discretion With Rules-Based Trigger

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Tata Sons will remain under tighter scrutiny even after Reserve Bank of India's proposed overhaul of rules for large non-bank finance companies, which replaces a complex scoring framework with a single asset-size threshold.

The change places Tata Sons, with a standalone asset size of Rs 1.75 lakh crore as of March 31, 2025, within the proposed limit for stricter oversight. Its status, however, hinges on regulatory approval of its application to surrender its core investment company registration, a move aimed at avoiding upper-layer classification and the related requirement to list.

Under the draft directions, NBFCs with assets exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore will be designated as upper-layer entities, marking a departure from the earlier methodology that combined quantitative and qualitative parameters to assess systemic importance. The new approach removes discretion and replaces it with a clear, rules-based trigger, while also doing away with the automatic inclusion of the largest NBFCs and the detailed scoring matrix that previously underpinned the classification exercise.

The threshold itself will be reviewed every five years, with the identification of such entities to be carried out annually.

"The shift to an absolute asset threshold means RBI will publish a revised NBFC-UL list once the norms are notified. For Tata Sons, the outcome is binary.

"If it features on the list, it would indicate that its deregistration request has not been accepted, triggering a mandatory listing given its size. If it does not, though that appears unlikely, it would suggest RBI has acceded to the deregistration request," said Binoy Parikh partner at Katalyst Advisors.

The changes also extend to ownership neutrality. Govt-owned NBFCs, which were earlier kept out of the upper layer irrespective of size, will now be assessed on the same footing as private entities. This signals a more harmonised regulatory architecture, where scale alone determines the intensity of oversight.

"The draft directions on identification of upper layer NBFCs (NBFC-UL) propose to be driven by the asset size criteria, which provides clarity to all stakeholders. Further inclusion of govt owned entities too, based on their size, indicates a more harmonised way of identifying NBFC-UL. Based on the existing position, the number of NBFC-UL would go up vis-a-vis 15 entities identified previously," said A M Karthik, senior vice-president, Icra.

With the draft open for public comments until May 4, the final contours of the framework will determine not just the breadth of the upper layer but also the regulatory trajectory for large conglomerate holding companies. The new regime gains in clarity and predictability.

PSUs TO BE ADDED TO UPPER-LAYER NBFCs

- Under the draft directions, NBFCs with asset bases exceeding **₹1 lakh crore will be designated as upper-layer entities**
- The shift has immediate implications for **large financial holding companies**
- **Tata Sons, with a standalone asset size of ₹1.75 lakh crore** as of March 31, 2025, will fall within the proposed threshold
- Govt-owned NBFCs, which were earlier kept out of the upper layer irrespective of size, will now be **assessed on the same footing as private entities**
- Based on the existing position, the **number of NBFC-UL would go up vis-a-vis 15 entities** identified previously

Mistry pitches for Tata holdco to go public

Reeba.Zachariah
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Mumbai: Amid calls from two Tata Trusts vice chairmen to list Tata Sons and with the RBI now proposing draft classification norms for upper-layer NBFCs, Shapoor Mistry who represents the single largest minority shareholder in the Tata group, on Friday pitched a public listing of the Tata holding company as "a necessary" step that would secure and unlock value for stakeholders and boost the income of the trusts.

Mistry, chairman of the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group and brother-in-law of Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata, argued that the listing would "reinforce corporate governance, deepen transparency and accountability." He added that no "clear, evidence-based case" has been made to show how going public would "materially damage the interests of the trusts or reduce their ability to serve beneficiaries."

SP, which has an 18.4% shareholding in Tata Sons, has pledged its entire stake as collateral to refinance debt of Rs 55,000-60,000 crore. A listing would help ease SP's financial pressures.

This is the second time Mistry has publicly pushed for a Tata Sons listing, following a similar call in Oct 2025 amid governance disputes at Tata Trusts and after Tata Sons missed the RBI's Sept 30, 2025 listing deadline for upper-layer NBFCs.

Tata Trusts holds about two-thirds of Tata Sons' equity, underscoring its controlling influence over the holding company. Mistry's latest statement also comes in the backdrop of Tata Trusts vice chairmen—Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh—breaking ranks to support the listing of Tata Sons. Noel has not been in favour of a listing and, at the last Tata Sons board meeting, had asked company chairman N Chandrasekaran to maintain the unlisted structure and expedite discussions with SP for a potential exit from Tata Sons.

None of the other trustees of Tata Trusts have made public statements on the proposed listing, with the majority aligning with Noel's position.

The views expressed by Srinivasan and Singh also ran counter to a July 2025 resolution passed by Tata Trusts to retain Tata Sons as an unlisted entity.

While indicating that discussions with Tata Sons leadership remain ongoing, Mistry expressed hope for an "amicable reconciliation at the earliest." At the same time, he said, "We look towards the RBI for a decisive direction," adding that the Tata Group, built on trust, integrity and public purpose, would be further strengthened through compliance with the RBI's listing framework.

Framing the listing as rooted in public interest, Mistry said a listed Tata Sons would strengthen board oversight, widen the investor base and secure long-term value for stakeholders. He emphasised that such a step could unlock value for millions of retail investors while also creating a more predictable and robust dividend stream for the trusts.

> We would like to reiterate that a timely listing of Tata Sons is not merely a regulatory compliance but a necessary evolution. To date, no clear, evidence-based case has been presented to explain how a public listing would materially damage the interests of the trusts or reduce their ability to serve beneficiaries
>
>
>
> **Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry** | SP GROUP CHAIRMAN

Chandra asks Air India staff to control costs, improve services

Mumbai: Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran on Friday asked Air India employees to focus on cost control, improve services and "stay grounded" in the reality of the challenging situation, while reiterating the group's continued commitment to the airline.

Addressing an employee town hall at the Air India Group's headquarters in Gurugram, Chandrasekaran said, "While our future is bright and we have laid a solid foundation for our ambition, we are going through a challenging time, the impact of which is most visible in the airline industry."

Chandrasekaran reaffirmed that the Air India Board remains "committed" to the carrier and will continue to work closely with its management team.

What matters now is staying focused on execution, he said, adding that "our focus should be on what is within our control, where we can improve, be precise on costs and remain grounded in the reality of the situation".

The town hall meeting came in the backdrop of Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson quitting the airline, much ahead of the completion of his service contract with the Tata Group airline.

Campbell, who announced his resignation on April 7, had a service contract of five years with the airline, which was supposed to end in July next year.

"The Tata Group remains committed to the Air India group. The Board is fully supportive and will continue to work closely with the management team," Chandrasekaran said, reaffirming the group's backing of Air India.

Air Indians have shown great "tenacity" in dealing with a perfect storm, and "we must continue with the same spirit that has been demonstrated," he said. AGENCIES

> **CHALLENGING TIME**
>
> What matters now is staying focused on execution. Our focus should be on what is within our control, where we can improve...be precise on costs and remain grounded in the reality of the situation
>
> —N Chandrasekaran, CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS
>
>

March MF SIP inflows log all-time high of ₹32k cr: AMFI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Despite extreme volatility in stock and debt markets in March, retail investors continued to keep faith in disciplined investing and poured in record sums through SIPs of mutual fund (MF) houses. During the month, gross inflows through the SIP route stood at an all-time high of Rs 32,087 crore, data by AMFI, the industry trade body showed.

According to Navneet Munot, MD & CEO, HDFC MF, despite heightened volatility driven by geopolitical developments, domestic investors remained steadfast and continued to invest with conviction. "This structural shift towards systematic investing augurs well for the long-term stability and depth of India's capital markets."

Some industry veterans pointed out that this Rs 32k crore monthly inflow number could be an outlier since Feb had fewer number of days for investors' SIP mandates to go to the funds that, in turn, had spilled over to March, boosting the monthly figure.

Another interesting aspect of the month's data was the net inflows through equity funds, in which mostly retail and individual investors put their long-term money. Despite extreme volatility, net inflow was at Rs 40,450 crore, one of the highest in recent months.

With both the stocks and debt markets witnessing selling during March mainly due to the war in West Asia, combined with year-end withdrawals by corporates from debt schemes, the MF industry's total assets under management slid by about Rs 8.3 lakh crore to Rs 73.7 lakh crore.

Sensex jumps 919pts as West Asia peace plan moves ahead

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: As the peace plan for West Asia seems to move ahead—though it remains under clouds of uncertainty—investors around the world are slowly taking bets that the war will end soon.

Most markets across the globe moved up, including in India. However, in early trades, the US markets were marginally lower.

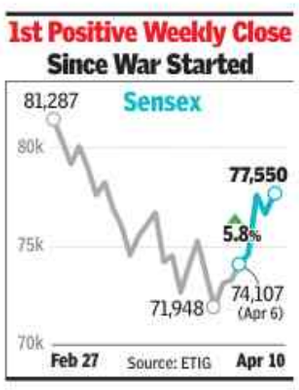
On Friday, although crude prices still hovered around the $100/barrel level, sensex rallied 919 points to close over the 77.5k-points mark, largely supported by HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and RIL. On a weekly basis, this was the first positive close for sensex since the war between the US-Israel and Iran started on Feb 28.

A noteworthy aspect of the day's rally was the net inflow of Rs 672 crores by foreign funds into stocks, the first such daily figure since the war started. Between March 2 and April 9, foreign portfolio investors had net sold in every session, aggregating Rs 1.4 lakh crore, data showed.

In Friday's session, TCS, Infosys and some other tech stocks witnessed heavy selling as AI fears resurfaced. While TCS closed 2.5% lower, Infosys was down nearly 3% and Tech Mahindra closed 1.4% lower.

The day's rally added about Rs 6.4 lakh crore to investors' wealth, with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 451.2 lakh crore, a level it regained after more than a month.

1st Positive Weekly Close Since War Started



ADB raises India's GDP projections for FY27 to 6.9%

New Delhi: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday projected India's GDP growth to remain robust at 6.9% in the current fiscal, and rise to 7.3% in FY28 driven by strong domestic demand, and supported by easing financing conditions and lower US tariffs. The ADB said a prolonged conflict in West Asia could undermine India's macroeconomic performance through multiple channels. PTI

Swiggy's Nandan Reddy steps down, may launch new venture

Q-Comm Pressure Mounts As Leadership Rejig Continues

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Swiggy cofounder Nandan Reddy has stepped down from the company's board and will leave the firm to pursue independent ventures, marking a significant leadership transition at the listed food delivery and quick commerce platform.

The company disclosed in a stock exchange filing on Friday that Reddy is "stepping down from his board position and moving on from Swiggy to pursue personal projects," with effect from April 10.

People familiar with the matter said Reddy is likely to launch a new venture, though details remain unclear. Swiggy was founded in 2014 by Sriharsha Majety, Reddy and Rahul Jaimini. While Majety continues as group CEO, Jaimini exited the company in 2020 and later founded Pesto AI, which connects companies with remote developers.

REDDY FOR NEXT

Cofounder exit: Nandan Reddy steps down from the board after 11-year journey since Swiggy's 2014 founding

Instamart challenge: Quick commerce arm caught in growth-versus-profitability deadlock, amid rising competition from Blinkit, Zepto

Loss widens: Dec quarter loss expands to ₹1,065 crore even as revenue rises 54% YoY

Board rejig: Phani Kishan Addepalli, Rahul Bothra elevated as executive directors, strengthening leadership bench

Strategic crossroads: JM Financial flags M&A as a possible outcome amid pressure on quick commerce profitability

In an internal email to employees, Reddy reflected on his journey with Majety, calling him a mentor, cofounder and "one of my closest friends," and said he would count the association among the "greatest privileges" of his life.

Reddy's exit comes at a time when Swiggy is navigating a crucial phase as a publicly listed company, balancing growth ambitions in quick commerce with profitability pressures. The company faces intensifying competition in quick commerce from rivals such as Blinkit, Zepto, and newer entrants, even as large ecommerce players step up investments in the segment.

A recent note by JM Financial downgraded the stock to "reduce," flagging concerns around Swiggy's quick commerce arm Instamart. The brokerage said the business is caught in a "growth-versus-profitability deadlock," with management focusing on improving contribution margins rather than aggressively scaling market share.

It added that Instamart's losses could narrow in the near term, but flagged limited visibility on a credible turnaround, with the segment unlikely to deliver meaningful profitability in the foreseeable future. The brokerage also warned that increasing competition from traditional ecommerce players could further pressure the business.

At the same time, Swiggy's core food delivery business shows steady demand and improving margins, although analysts noted it may not be strong enough to offset losses from quick commerce and other segments.

Against this backdrop, JM Financial said a potential merger or acquisition could be the "best possible outcome" for investors, while revising its price target downward.

Separately, Swiggy has elevated cofounder Phani Kishan Addepalli and group chief financial officer Rahul Bothra as executive directors on its board, subject to shareholder approval.

'79% rely on own income, relatives for construction'

Only 21% Have Accessed Institutional Fin: Survey

Times News Network

New Delhi: As many as 79% households relied on own income and loans from relatives to undertake any sort of construction activity in the past one year, while institutional finance was available only to 21% of the households, a latest pilot survey by NSO showed Friday.

The survey showed that nearly 1 crore households undertook any form of construction activity in the past year, while around 10.2 lakh unincorporated enterprises were engaged in the construction activity. The survey sample covered 19,154 households and 4,470 establishments. Highlighting the limited reach of institutional financing options to households for construction activities in the country, the survey noted that it only accounted for 17% of the total expenditure.

About three-fourths of the expenditure was on materials, with labour accounting for around 22%. Within materials, bricks, cement, iron and steel together comprised nearly 60% of total expenditure. Nearly four labourers were engaged in the construction activities undertaken by the households.

'Limited Fin Access'

- Govt's pilot survey aims at capturing output, employment and capital formation by the unincorporated construction enterprises and households undertaking construction for own use
- Households have a limited access to institutional financing options for construction activities, the survey says

The proportion of households accessing institutional loans was higher in rural areas (23%) compared to urban areas (13%). State-level data revealed that, among major states, Maharashtra recorded the highest proportion (nearly 50%) of households reporting institutional as one of the funding sources for undertaking construction.

The pilot survey by govt conducted between July-Dec 2025 aimed at capturing the output, employment and capital formation by the unincorporated construction enterprises and households undertaking construction for own use as the sector plays a very crucial role in the economy.

NVentures of Nvidia backs Simplismart in $15mn round

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: NVentures, the venture capital arm of Nvidia, is co-leading a $15 million funding round in AI inference startup Simplismart, marking its entry into the Bengaluru-based company, according to people familiar with the matter.

Existing investor Dallas VC is also co-leading the round, they said. The fundraise values Simplismart at around $110 million. Accel, which led the startup's previous round, is also expected to participate with an investment of about $3 million, although final allocations may still be under discussion.

Founded in 2022 by Amritanshu Jain and Devansh Ghatak, Simplismart builds an AI inference and model deployment platform that helps enterprises run and manage generative AI workloads. The company focuses on improving performance and reducing costs for models deployed on GPU-based infrastructure, an area gaining importance as enterprises move from experimentation to production-scale AI adoption.

NVentures' participation comes as Nvidia steps up its engagement in India following the India AI Impact Summit earlier this year, where it outlined partnerships around AI infrastructure and enterprise adoption. The investment signals growing interest from global technology players in startups building the underlying stack for AI deployment.

OpenAI adds new ChatGPT Pro plan

New Delhi: OpenAI has introduced a new ChatGPT plan aimed at heavy users, particularly developers, pegging the monthly cost at Rs 10,699.

The move puts pressure on rivals. Google Gemini's comparable plan is priced at Rs 24,500 a month, while Perplexity is at Rs 17,000 a month. Anthropic offers Claude Pro at $17, with no India pricing disclosed, and a Max tier ranging from $100-200 a month.

The new Pro tier is built around increased access to Codex, ChatGPT's coding tool, offering roughly five times the capacity of the Plus plan. OpenAI said Codex now has over 3 million weekly users globally, with usage growing sharply in recent months. TNN

Centre's fresh CAFE 3 brew aims to ease transition for auto industry

Times News Network

Draft norms offer credit flexibility, promote cleaner technologies, and ease compliance burden during shift to stricter emission targets

New Delhi: After months of haggling, the auto industry seems to have been comforted by the latest draft of the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE 3) norms, which encourage the use of new technologies and target major improvements, starting April 2027.

CAFE are govt-mandated norms to reduce fuel consumption and carbon dioxide across a carmaker's portfolio of vehicles. Under CAFÉ 3, to achieve the targets, carmakers will be given higher credits for vehicles with greater fuel efficiency, apart from "super credits" for producing EVs, hybrids or flex fuels (petrol or ethanol) vehicles. Further, use of 12-specified energy efficient technologies — such as start-stop system, six-speed or higher transmission, tyre pressure monitoring system or high-efficiency AC systems — can earn discounts for the car manufacturer, the draft circulated on Wednesday said.

Carmakers can purchase credits from other carmakers "for compliance on their mutually agreed terms and conditions". Unlike the earlier two versions of CAFE, which allowed companies to target efficiency over a five-year period, the third edition has proposed a block period of three years, followed by a two-year phase. Auto companies can miss annual targets but must meet it at the aggregate level, with records to be maintained in a passbook.

Based on the draft, the efficiency score is targeted to be reduced from 113.5 at the end of 2026-27, the terminal year of CAFÉ 2, to 94.8 in 2027-28, when CAFÉ 3 kicks in and to 78.9 in the terminal year (2031-32). The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), which circulated the latest draft, has assumed that by 2031-32, CNG vehicles will be the biggest chunk of the vehicle mix, with a share of 35% by 2031-32, compared with 24% estimated in the current financial year.

The share of petrol is projected to fall from 50% to 30.7% during this period. Similarly, share of EVs is expected to rise from 4.5% to 11%, with strong hybrids accounting for 12% of the vehicles by 2031-32, according to a presentation made to the cabinet secretary on Wednesday. The revised draft has proposed relaxations for small cars compared to the earlier plan, but tightened the credits offered for hybrids and flex fuel vehicles.

Anthropic taps CoreWeave for AI data capacity

Anthropic has agreed to rent data centre capacity from CoreWeave as it seeks to meet rising demand for its artificial intelligence services.

The multiyear deal will support development and deployment of Anthropic's Claude AI models, CoreWeave said on Friday.

The capacity will include a range of Nvidia chip architectures at data centres in the US, CoreWeave CEO **Michael Intrator** said. Financial terms were not disclosed. CoreWeave shares rose as much as 7.1% in premarket trading to $98.5. The stock had closed at $92 in New York on Thursday.

Anthropic, along with OpenAI, has been at the forefront of the surge in AI services and has at times struggled to keep its products online amid what it described as "unprecedented demand". The company is expanding computing capacity, including committing $50 billion towards new AI data centres in the US.

San Francisco-based Anthropic is among the most valuable closely held companies, with a valuation of about $380 billion, including $30 billion raised recently. Earlier this week, Anthropic announced a partnership with Broadcom and Alphabet's Google to secure 3.5 gigawatts of energy capacity. One gigawatt can power about 750,000 US households at a time. BLOOMBERG

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2026-27/116 DATE: 08/04/2026

Short term E-Re-Tender Notification (Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise Short term e-Re-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 5054-KRDCL. Amount put to tender is Rs. 400.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:

1) Pre-bid meeting date: 13-04-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 15-04-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 17-04-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 21-04-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-84/KSMCA/2026-27

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು , ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾಮ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570020

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಮೂ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ-02/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಜಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ರ ನಂತರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ರ ವರೆಗೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30
1	ಟೆಂ. ಪ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ)ಟಿ.ಎನ್-02 2026-27, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.04.2026	01	130.00	08.04.2026	23.04.2026	24.04.2026
2	ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ&ಪ)ಟಿ.ಎನ್-03/2026-27, ದಿನಾಂಕ 09.04.2026	03	90.35	09.04.2026	17.04.2026 & 18.04.2026	18.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 & 21.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30
3	ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ&ಪ)ಟಿ.ಎನ್-04/2026-27,ದಿನಾಂಕ 10.04.2026	02	152.00	13.04.2026	28.04.2026	29.04.2026

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾ.ಅ (ಪೂರ್ವ & ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ:** ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ:ಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/45/ತಿರಡಿಸಾಯು/2026-27

Revenue Department
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
MYSURU SUB-DIVISION, MYSURU 2nd Floor, New Dc Office Building, Mysore- Bannur Road, Siddarthanagar, Mysore. Phone: 0821-2422100, Fax: 0821-2422100, E-mail: mysac1@yahoo.com

No: MYSAC-MAG/2/2024 Date 09-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CALLING CLAIMS RELATING TO of FIR No 0060/2021, 0003/2022 And 0009/2021 (Solar Project)

Public Notice under Section 7(2) of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors In Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE) calling for submission of claims from the Secured creditors and depositors of FIR No 0060/2021, 0003/2022 And 0009/2021 (Solar Project), Claim forms will be issued at the office of the OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MYSURU SUB-DIVISION, MYSURU, 2nd Floor, New Dc Office Building, Mysore- Bannur Road, Siddarthanagar, Mysore to the depositor/authorized representative/ nominee and in the absence of the nominee, the power of attorney holder on production of identity proof and proof of investment such as original copies of Bonds, official letter and PoA documents.

Starting date of issuing claim applications	15-04-2026	10-00 AM
Last date for submission of claim applications	14-05-2026	05-30 PM

For further details and list of documents to be submitted kindly visit **https://sploca.org/**

Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner & Competent Authority
DIPR/CP/148/NR/2026-27 FIR No 0060/2021, 0003/2022 And 0009/2021 (Solar Project)

13001/141/2627

BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AKASH SHOVA BUILDING,
SACHIVALAYA MARG, BHUBANESWAR - 751001
PABX No.0674-2392801/0998/6437, FAX No.0674-2390633 / 085
Visit us at: http://www.bda.gov.in/

Invitation for Bids

Bid Identification No. 229 /EM/BDA/2026-27 Date. 08/04/2026

Engineer Member, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for civil works as mentioned below:

1. Nature of works	:	Construction of Rental/Transit house (G+1) of pre-fabricated structure at Gadakana, Bhubaneswar, Phase-I
2. Total No. of works	:	01 (one) Nos.
3. Amount put to tender	:	Rs. 7.90 crore
4. Class of Contractor	:	'Special' Class and 'A' Class
5. Period of Completion	:	6 (Six) Calendar months
6. Cost of Bid Documents	:	Rs.10000.00+18% GST = Rs.11800.00 (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)
7. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	:	1% of estimated cost put to tender. (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)
8. Availability of Tender	:	From 13.04.2026 to 5.30 PM of 28.04.2026 https://tendersodisha.gov.in.
9. Date of opening of Tender	:	Dt.29.04.2026 at 11.30 AM
10. Place of opening of Tender	:	O/o-Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Engineer Member,
BDA, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-13001/13033/1/26-27/0006

32001/42/2627

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT
BHUBANESWAR
Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 01ML/2026-27

On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha

1. Name of Work	:	Operation and Maintenance of existing 9 nos. schemes with intake points on Mahanadi River having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift Cluster-VI in the districts of Cuttack comprising all electro-mechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPL covering culturable command area of 16,750 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 9 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electro- mechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of 5 years on "Turn-key basis".
2. O&M Period	:	60 (Sixty) calendar months.
3. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	13.04.2026 10 A.M.
4. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	27.04.2026 up to 5.00 P.M
5. Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	:	Chief Engineer, Megalift, A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Pin -751022

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**"

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Megalift, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32001/32504/1/26-27/0001

12001/3/2627

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 22.
Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921
E-mail: ophwc.od@od.gov.in, Website: www.ophwc.com
e-procurement notice No.- 01/OPHWC/2026-27

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The **Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC)**, Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the works as detailed below:

1	Nature of work	Building works
2	No. of Works	05 Nos.
3	Value of Tender	Rs. 86.26 Lakh to Rs. 2796.30 Lakh
4	Class of Contractor	'B' Class to 'Super' Class
5	Cost of Bid document (To be paid online)	Rs. 11,800.00
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	Dt. 13/04/2026 to Dt. 27/04/2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
7	Last date/time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal	Dt. 27/04/2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
8	Date of Opening Bid	Dt. 28/04/2026 at 10.30 A.M.
9	Date of Technical Presentation (among qualified bidders only)	Date & Time will be notified after opening of the Technical Bid.
10	*The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can also be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall not be published in Newspaper and can only be seen in the said website. *The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and terminate the tender process without assigning any reason thereof.	

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC)

N.B.- The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T.as applicable Under works contract.
OIPR-12001/12025/1/26-27/0001

32001/41/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
KHAIRIBHANDAN & DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT, KARANJIA
AT/PO: KARANJIA, DIST.: MAYURBHANJ-757037
Tel: 06796-296144, e-mail: cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice No. 02/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27
Bid Identification No. 02/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27

1. Nature of the Work	:	Civil Work
2. Number of Works	:	01 (One) No of Individual Work
3. Approximate amount put to tender	:	Rs. 2016.42 Lakh
4. Period of Completion	:	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months including rainy season
5. Class of Contractor	:	Special Class & Super Class
6. Date & time of Availability of Bid document in the portal	:	Dt. 17.04.2026 at 10.00 AM to 07.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM
7. Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	:	Dt. 27.04.2026 up to 1.00 PM through email
8. Date & time for Pre-Bid Conference	:	29.04.2026, 11.00 AM
9. Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the Portal	:	Dt. 07.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM
10. Date, time & place of opening of Technical Bid/s (Cover-I)	:	Dt. 08.05.2026 at 10.30 AM in O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
11. Date, time & place of opening of Financial Bid/s (Cover-II)	:	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical BID
12. Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	:	Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, AT/PO-Karanjia, PS- Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj, PIN-757037

*Further details can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia.
OIPR-32001/32337/1/26-27/0001

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಫೋ: 0836-2213838 Email: eedharwad@gmail.com

ನಂ.ಎಚ್.ಡಿ.ಎಂಸಿ/66/07/02/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 10-04-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ನಂ:- ದಿನಾಂಕ:

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, PWD ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನ :-

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 42526/27.35 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 48787/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 48794/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 48303/14.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53110/6.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57163/22.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I 7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57160/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57162/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 9) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57161/8.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ 10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57190/6.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57165/7.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57166/40.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 56772/18.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 14) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 56758/4.80ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57191/7.90ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 16) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57196/3.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ 17) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57197/5.70ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 18) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57210/3.36ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 19) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57212/1.70ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 20) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57259/25.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ 21) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57258/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 22) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 52330/16.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 23) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 57256/94.30ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 24) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. DMA/2026-27/SE7670/47.72ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ

ಒಟ್ಟು **24** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 419.23** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಧಾರವಾಡ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **0836-2213838** ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅ.ನಂ. **1** ರಿಂದ **24** ರವರೆಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13-04-2026** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ **(1 ರಿಂದ 21)**

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	**02/05/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ**
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	**04/05/2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆ**

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ **(22 ರಿಂದ 24)**

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	**23/04/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ**
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	**24/04/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.30 ಗಂಟೆ**
3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	**29/04/2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆ**

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/43/2026-27/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

OLIVIA MUNN SAYS A MALE CO-STAR ONCE REFUSED TO FILM SCENE BEING SAVED BY WOMAN & STOPPED PRODUCTION FOR 45 MINUTES

DOING NOTHING IS HARD TO DO. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED — LESLIE NIELSEN

SPIELBERG SAYS WORKED ON 'INTERSTELLAR' FOR A YEAR BEFORE DROPPING OUT: 'IT WAS A MUCH BETTER MOVIE IN NOLAN'S HANDS'

Who will bell the tolls? Trump sows chaos in world waterways

Hormuz Fees May Trigger A Domino Effect From Malacca Strait To South China Sea

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Trump has warned Iran to stop charging fees on ships going through the Strait of Hormuz, reversing his earlier position where he appeared to endorse such tolls and even wanted a cut of the spoils for Washington in a deal with Tehran.

"There are reports that Iran is charging fees to tankers going through the Hormuz Strait — they better not be and, if they are, they better stop now!" Trump said in a post on Friday, following up with "Iran is doing a very poor job, dishonourable some would say, of allowing oil to go through the Strait of Hormuz. That is not the agreement we have!"

The US President has now managed to articulate three distinct positions on one of the most sensitive questions in global maritime law: whether Iran can charge tolls in the Strait of Hormuz. First came the provocation. Asked if he would end the conflict tied to Iran's reported toll collection, Trump, amplifying his view that "to the victor goes the spoils," shot back: "What about us charging tolls? I'd rather do that than let them have it. Why shouldn't we? We're the winner." Hours later, he floated a deal with Iran, saying "We're thinking of doing it as a joint venture…It's a way of securing it – securing it from lots of other people," calling it a "beautiful" idea.

The contortions have left diplomats, shipping companies, and legal scholars grappling with a question that cuts to the heart of the global trading system: who, if anyone, has the right to charge for passage through the world's maritime chokepoints?

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the answer—at least on paper—is unambiguous. The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow passage connecting the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea, qualifies as an "international strait". Under Article 44, coastal states bordering such straits—in this case Iran and Oman—are obligated not to "hamper or suspend" transit passage. A narrow exception: states can charge fees for specific services like pilotage, tug assistance, or emergency repairs but these must be tied to actual services, not levied as a blanket "navigation tax."

Iran's reported move to extract toll — allegedly now in cryptocurrency— has therefore drawn swift condemnation from maritime law experts, who see it as a direct violation of both treaty law and long-standing customary practice. By some accounts, Iran can generate up to $240 million a day given the roughly 120 vessels that transit the strait daily.

Part of the confusion stems from a fundamental distinction in maritime law: the difference between natural straits and man-made canals. Artificial waterways like the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal are widely accepted as toll-based systems. Egypt and Panama, respectively, charge transit fees because these are engineered passages requiring constant dredging, maintenance, and security. The tolls are not only legal but essential to the canals' operation, and they are applied on a non-discriminatory basis under established treaty frameworks.

Natural straits, by contrast, are governed by the principle of free transit. They are not owned infrastructure but geographic inevitabilities — chokepoints through which global commerce must pass. Allowing unilateral tolls in such waterways would effectively convert geography into a tool of economic coercion. That is precisely the fear now rippling through maritime circles. If Iran succeeds in enforcing tolls in Hormuz—even partially—it could set a precedent with far-reaching consequences.

Attention is already turning to the Strait of Malacca, another critical artery through which a significant portion of global trade flows. Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia have long adhered to the principle of free passage under UNCLOS, but one analyst warned this week that by destabilising Hormuz and bullying Panama, the US has shattered maritime order that kept Malacca's shipping lanes free for decades.

The implications extend even further. India could, in theory, seek to impose charges on shipping routes criss-crossing the Indian Ocean, while China—already assertive in the South China Sea—might attempt to formalise "administrative fees" for passage through waters it claims as sovereign. In an era of fraying international norms, it now appears the temptation to extract revenue—or exert leverage—could prove irresistible.

Japan and other economies have warned that the combination of conflict and commercial exploitation could destabilise markets. "If you hadn't started this war, the Strait of Hormuz would still be free," an angry critic told Trump on X, capturing a sentiment shared among US allies even as Vice President JD Vance was flying over the region into Pakistan.

HIGH-STAKES TALKS, DEEP DIVIDES

Iran-US meet on Saturday faces tough gaps as Hormuz lockdown looms large

WHO WILL ATTEND?

IRAN

- Parliament speaker **Mohammed Baqer Qalibaf**
- Foreign minister **Abbas Araghchi**
- New secretary of the supreme national security council, **Mohmamad Baqer Zolqadr**

US

- Vice Prez **JD Vance**
- White House special envoy **Steve Witkoff**
- President Trump's son-in-law **Jared Kushner**

TOP AGENDA FOR TALKS

Previous talking points of Iran's nuclear programme and missiles are overshadowed by the **fate of Strait of Hormuz**, a chokepoint through which around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural typically gas flows

ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS?

Iran is **unlikely to make major concessions** and has indicated it can keep on fighting, with the Strait of Hormuz giving it economic leverage over an enemy with superior firepower

WHERE DO BOTH SIDES STAND?

Iran's 10-point proposal shows little overlap with a 15-point plan US previously put forward, suggesting there will be **major gaps to bridge**

POINTS OF CONTENTION

Iran's demand to **enrich uranium**, which US has previously ruled out and Trump insists is non-negotiable. Also, **Iran's missile capabilities**, which Israel and US both say must be curtailed

WHAT IS ISRAEL'S POSITION?

Israel, which has been pounding Iran's ally Hezbollah in Lebanon in a parallel conflict, sees Tehran as an existential threat. The question of **whether the ceasefire covers Israel's war against Hezbollah** has become a sticking point that threatens the truce

Kuwait: Drone attack wounded National Guard members

Kuwait's defence ministry said on Friday that several members of its National Guard have been wounded, after the country's air defences responded to a drone attack the previous day. The ministry said in a statement that "Iranian aggression" had targeted several vital installations belonging to the National Guard, injuring some members. It added that the armed forces had "detected and intercepted, over the past 24 hours, seven hostile drones in Kuwaiti airspace". **Iran's Revolutionary Guards said, however, that they have not launched anything at any country since the ceasefire** between the US and Iran took effect this week. AFP

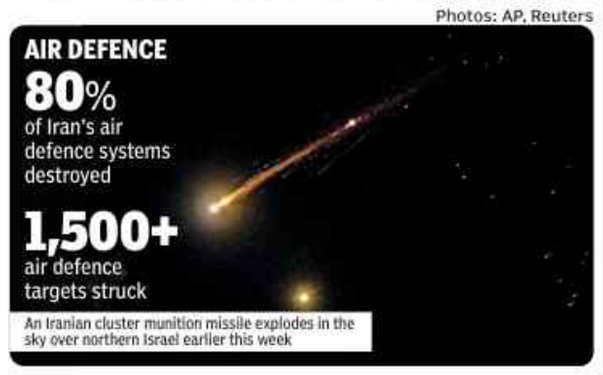
Former Iranian minister dies after being wounded in airstrike

A former Iranian foreign minister who once suggested Tehran could seek a nuclear weapon died late Thursday after being wounded in an airstrike last week, Iranian state television reported. Kamal Kharazi had served as a foreign minister for Iran's reformist President Mohammad Khatami, then as a foreign affairs adviser to the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In 2022, he told news network Al Jazeera that Tehran has "the technical means to produce a nuclear bomb, but there has been no decision by Iran to build one," sparking concern about Tehran's intentions. AP

US STRIKES DEGRADED IRANIAN MILITARY, BUT CAPABILITIES REMAIN

Photos: AP, Reuters

Independent data from Armed Conflict Location & Event Data, a US-based group that tracks conflicts, shows Iranian strikes persisted at a relatively steady and uninterrupted pace since the war began on Feb 28. Here's a look at what the US says has been targeted, has been degraded or remains from Iran, by the numbers:



AIR DEFENCE

80% of Iran's air defence systems destroyed

1,500+ air defence targets struck

An Iranian cluster munition missile explodes in the sky over northern Israel earlier this week

450+ ballistic missile storage facilities struck

800 one-way attack drone storage facilities struck

'All of these systems are gone,' said Gen Dan Caine. Yet, Iran 'can still shoot,' conceded defence secy Pete Hegseth.

The remaining **20%** of defences are unaccounted for

NAVY

90%+ of Iran's regular Navy fleet sunk

Only half of the Revolutionary Guard's small attack boats sunk

95%+ of Iran's naval mines destroyed

150 Iranian ships at the bottom of the ocean

However, the remaining 5% of naval mines are still a threat. Revolutionary Guard have reportedly placed mines in Strait of Hormuz

Source: AP

WEAPONS FACTORIES

90% of Iran's weapons factories attacked

80% of Iran's nuclear industrial bases hit

'We destroyed Iran's defence industrial base,'said Caine. But Caine didn't rule out Iran rebuilding or obtaining weapons elsewhere. Trump warned of tariffs for countries arming Iran

If Iran negotiates in good faith, we're willing to extend open hand: Vance

▶Continued from P1

If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand," Vance said. "If they're going to try to play us, then they're going to find that the negotiating team is not that receptive." It was a formulation that reflected Vance's scepticism of war — important for his own political future—even as it signalled firmness in an attempt to walk the fine line between deterrence and diplomacy.

President Trump however, offered a cryptic framing, posting on social media that the unfolding situation represented the "most powerful reset in the world". The White House, seeking to impose coherence, added that Trump was "optimistic that a deal can be reached that can lead to lasting peace in the Middle East (West Asia)," citing his "proven track record" of securing agreements that "put America first".

Iran's preconditions, however, have complicated the mission as the US is not ready to concede either of the two demands as yet. Even as diplomacy gathers pace, tensions remain high in the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran has reportedly moved to demand payments from some transiting vessels.

Vance's central role in this mission is perhaps the most revealing aspect of the current moment. Traditionally, such high-stakes diplomacy would be led by the secretary of state — currently Marco Rubio. Instead, Trump has turned to his vice president, sidelining the country's top diplomat.

The move also contrasts sharply with the posture of defence secretary Pete Hegseth, whose advocacy of a "warrior ethos" has shaped the administration's military response. Another sardonic comment came from Washington's warmongering commentariat: "Trump and Hegseth have won the war and are sending Vance to Pakistan to negotiate our terms of surrender."

While exaggerated, such sentiments reflect a growing perception that the administration's military successes have not been converted into strategic gains — and that Vance is being tasked with resolving a conflict whose political endgame remains unclear. The political context surrounding Vance's mission is equally challenging. Public appetite for escalation is limited in the US, and anti-war sentiment is no longer confined to progressive circles. Within Trump's own MAGA base, a growing number of voices have expressed unease about the trajectory of the conflict, irking the President. This scepticism has created an unusual convergence, with segments of both the right and left questioning the costs of continued engagement.

No word about Iranian delegation: There was no word about when the Iranian delegation would arrive. Iran's ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amir Moghadam, on Thursday confirmed that an Iranian delegation would arrive in Islamabad. Hours later, he deleted the statement amidst the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

With PTI inputs

AFP

Pak Rangers stand guard near the expected venue of the US-Iran talks in Islamabad on Friday

10k+ security personnel deployed in Islamabad

Pakistan's interior minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday reviewed the security arrangements in Islamabad ahead of the peace talks. According to sources, delegates from the US and Iran were expected to arrive by Friday night to participate in the talks over the weekend, for which more than 10,000 security personnel have been deployed in Islamabad. As part of security measures, a large-scale grand combing search operation was carried out in Islamabad. PTI

Israel questions Pak role as 'neutral arbiter', slams its defence min's antisemitic remarks

Jerusalem: In a strong denouncement of "outrageous" remarks made by Pakistan defence minister Khawaja Asif, Israel has raised doubts about his country's role as a "neutral arbiter". "Pakistan defence minister's call for Israel's annihilation is outrageous," the Israeli PM's Office said in a post on X. "This is not a statement that can be tolerated from any government, especially not from one that claims to be a neutral arbiter for peace," the PMO said on Thursday evening.

Pakistan has been credited with mediating a temporary two-week ceasefire between US and Iran and is preparing to host peace talks over the weekend. However, Asif, in a social media post, called Israel "evil" and a "curse for humanity", giving a call "to get rid of European Jews". Asif also claimed that as "peace talks are underway in Islamabad, genocide is being committed in Lebanon". "Innocent citizens are being killed by Israel, first Gaza, then Iran and now Lebanon, bloodletting continues unabated," Asif said. "I hope and pray that the people who created this cancerous state on Palestinian land to get rid of European Jews [sic] burn in hell," he added.

AP

Damaged buildings and charred cars at an attack site in Beirut

Israeli foreign minister Gideon Saar also condemned Asif's comments, saying, "These blatant antisemitic blood libels from a government claiming to mediate peace. Israel will defend itself against terrorists who vow its destruction." PTI

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

Trump: Iran has 'no cards' beyond Hormuz control in talks with US

Washington: President Donald Trump said on Friday that Iran has "no cards" in upcoming talks with the US — apart from Tehran's effective stranglehold on the crucial Strait of Hormuz shipping channel. "The Iranians don't seem to realise they have no cards, other than a short-term extortion of the World by using international waterways," Trump said on his Truth Social network. "The only reason they are alive today is to negotiate!" Trump added: "The Iranians are better at handling the fake news media, and 'public relations,' than they are at fighting!"

'Separately on Friday, Trump told New York Post that US warships are being reloaded with weaponry to strike Iran if the talks fail. "We have a reset going. We're loading up the ships with the best ammunition, the best weapons ever made — even better than what we did previously and we blew them apart," the Post quoted Trump as saying. "And if we don't have a deal, we will be using them." AFP

10 Indians living illegally in US indicted for visa fraud conspiracy

New York: Ten Indian nationals, living illegally in the US, were indicted by a federal grand jury in Boston for conspiring to carry out staged armed robberies for the purpose of visa fraud. The individuals were previously charged by a criminal complaint in March. They were planning to carry out staged armed robberies at convenience stores for the purpose of allowing store clerks to falsely claim they were crime victims on immigration applications.

The defendants are Jitendrakumar Patel, 39; Maheshkumar Patel, 36; Sanjaykumar Patel, 45; Dipikaben Patel, 40, deported to India after unlawfully residing in Massachusetts; Rameshbhai Patel, 52; Amitabahen Patel, 43; Ronakkumar Patel, 28; Sangitaben Patel, 36; Minkesh Patel, 42; and Sonal Patel, 42. All 10 defendants were previously charged by criminal complaint and released on conditions. The defendants are subject to deportation upon completion of any sentence imposed, the justice department said on Thursday. PTI

Melania denies Epstein ties as Trump declares war on MAGA talking heads

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

AFP

Melania Trump's 'I was not close to Epstein...' speech has raised almost as many questions as it answered because no one, at least publicly, was asking about her connections

Washington: It was just another tormenting Thursday in the capital of absurdity that is Washington DC these days. In a single 24-hour news cycle, the US first lady held a surprise news conference to swear she barely knew the late convicted sexual offender Jeffrey Epstein, while her husband took to Truth Social to verbally decapitate MAGA talking heads whom he once embraced.

All this, while the US veep was headed to Pakistan to salvage a war started by his boss to allegedly distract everyone from the Epstein files, which the boss' wife has now brought back to attention.

The day began with the sort of event that makes press secretaries weep: Melania Trump strode into the East Room to assert "I was not close to Epstein…We met at a handful of social events in the early 2000s, that's all."

The statement raised almost as many questions as it answered because no one, at least publicly, was asking about her connections.

In Washington's warped news theatre, this was seen as a sign that something big was about to drop and she was trying to get ahead of the story. A simpler explanation: She's angry about a raft of AI generated images and memes that have Epsteined her.

Meanwhile, her husband, who found time to tell a reporter he had no idea his wife was dropping a bombshell in the White House, was unloading on a quartet — Tucker Carlson, Megyn Kelly, Alex Jones, and Candace Owens — who once formed the Mount Rushmore of MAGA media.

"They have one thing in common, low IQs. They're stupid people… they're NUT JOBS, TROUBLEMAKERS, and will say anything necessary for some "free" and cheap publicity…These so-called "pundits" are LOSERS …As President, I could get them on my side anytime I want to, but when they call, I don't return their calls because I'm too busy on World and Country Affairs," Trump raged in a blistering 482-word post.

"It may be time to put Grandpa up in a home," Candace Owens said in an 11-word response, a frequent sentiment on the liberal spectrum in America. Thursday's double feature — Melania's dubious denial and Trump's digital dumpster-fire — was less a news cycle than performance art. The first lady insists she barely knew Epstein; the former president insists he barely knows his megaphones. Meanwhile, the actual war grinds on, the bombs keep falling, the files keep leaking, and the rest of America is left wondering if the capital's real national security threat is the feedback loop of its own narcissism.

Canada to replace 3 key visa streams with a single, unified pathway

Canada is set to undertake one of the biggest reforms to its economic immigration system since the launch of Express Entry in 2015, with a proposal to replace three major visa streams with a single, unified pathway.

According to an announcement by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), govt is considering repealing the Federal Skilled Worker Class, Canadian Experience Class and Federal Skilled Trades Class, and introducing a new federal high-skilled immigration category with "streamlined eligibility requirements." The move aims to simplify a system that has grown complex over the past decade, with overlapping criteria across programmes.

IRCC adds that the proposed changes could help create a more diverse talent pool and make the process easier for applicants. The reform is still at a preliminary stage, with public consultations scheduled for Spring 2026. Implementation, if approved, is likely to take months, meaning current applicants may not be affected. TNN

WORLD DIGEST

Stefano Gabbana exits as Dolce & Gabbana chair, to keep a creative role

Stefano Gabbana has stepped down as chairman of the fashion house that he co-founded with Domenico Dolce, the company said on Friday. Gabbana's resignation from oversight roles was effective Jan 1. The company called it "a natural evolution of its organisational structure and governance." Gabbana, 63, will continue in his creative role at the company, the statement said. Dolce & Gabbana made its Milan runway debut in 1985, with a focus on Sicilian craftsmanship that has been a touchstone throughout the years for the designers. The brand grew in popularity in the 1990s with cone bras, corset looks and perfectly tailored black dresses.

Putin announces Easter ceasefire, Ukraine agrees

Russian President Putin on Thursday announced a 32-hour ceasefire over a two-day period for Orthodox Easter and his Ukrainian counterpart Zelensky said Kyiv would abide by the measure. Putin's announcement was similar to a 30-hour ceasefire he ordered last year. Each side accused the other of violating it. The Kremlin said the Easter ceasefire would be in effect from Saturday at 4pm (local time) to midnight on Sunday evening. Zelensky said Ukraine had repeatedly proposed a halt to fighting for Orthodox Easter.

China will not tolerate Taiwan independence: Xi

China will "absolutely not tolerate" independence for Taiwan, which is the chief culprit in undermining peace in the Taiwan Strait, President Xi Jinping told the island's opposition leader on Friday, calling for efforts to advance "reunification". Cheng Li-wun, chairwoman of Taiwan's largest opposition party, the Kuomintang, is in China on what she has called a peace mission to reduce tensions. Meeting in the Great Hall of the People, Xi told Cheng, "Compatriots on both sides of the strait are all Chinese — people of one family who want peace, development, exchange, and cooperation." The comments were carried by Taiwan TV stations.

SNAP SHOTS

Thushara backs down in stand-off

Sri Lankan pacer Nuwan Thushara, who had taken his cricket board to court for denying him a No Objection Certificate for IPL participation, has now extended an apology to the governing body and is considering withdrawing his case. Sri Lanka Cricket sources said that Thushara had apologised in an e-mail to SLC.

Meenakshi bags silver: Meenakshi Goyat added a third silver to India's tally in the women's 53kg category, while three men's freestyle wrestlers advanced to the gold medal bouts in their respective weight classes at the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek on Friday. Monika (women's 65kg) and Harshita (women's 72kg) then signed off with bronze medals to take India's overall medals tally into double figures -- three silver and seven bronze. Earlier, Sujeet (65kg), Abhimanyou (70kg) and Sandeep Mann (79kg) sealed their final berth.

Ganapathy moves two shots clear: Veer Ganapathy produced a superb finish to move into sole two-shot lead after the second day of the IGPL Invitational 2026 Mauritius in Port Louis, Mauritius on Friday. Overnight co-leader Sachin Baisoya (67-71) slipped on the very last hole and it gave Ganapathy (67-69) the pole position. The 18-year-old Bengaluru golfer carded 3-under 69 and moved to 8-under total after 36 holes.

White named jr women's coach: Experienced Australian Tim White was on Friday named the head coach of India's junior women's hockey team by the national federation, replacing Tushar Khandekar who was with the team since 2023. Hockey India did not specify the reasons for the change and also did not divulge the duration of White's contract. White was the head coach of the Tamil Nadu Dragons in the Hockey India League (HIL) in Jan this year. His coaching career includes stints in Belgium and Australia.

Verstappen future in doubt: Max Verstappen's future in Formula One was again cast in doubt after it was confirmed that his long-time race engineer Gianpiero Lambiase will leave Red Bull for McLaren. Lambiase's exit will mark the departure of another senior figure from Red Bull, with Christian Horner sacked as team principal last year. It raises more questions about Verstappen, who hinted during last month's race in Japan he is ready to quit Formula One.

Sonam does the 'trick': Sonam Dutta's hat-trick powered Parikrma FC past Technico 6-1 in the KSFA Women's 'A' division football league championship in Bengaluru. **Results: 'A' division:** Parikrma FC 6 (Arti Munda 12, 64, Sonam Dutta 28, 33, 38, Rivka Smiti Aarons 59) bt Technico 1 (Nishitha Ballyatanda 16); SRFC 4 (Purva Bhosale 26, 65, Alisha Borges 40(P), Sakshi Ganesh Chitagi 44) bt Pass FC Sparks 1 (Andrea Elizabeth 70+1). **'B' division:** Technico 2 (Tanu Chauhan 17, Shrushti Prabhakar Gowda 34) bt Blues FA 1 (Mohitha A 50); Kemp Junior FC 1 (Myrra Gupta 1) bt Hawks Unites SA 0.

DYES' OLYMPIC SCHEME LIST RAISES SELECTION CONCERNS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The department of youth empowerment and sports' (DYES) list of 60 sportspersons who will receive financial help from the state govt under the Guri Olympic Padaka Scheme in the run-up to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics has raised several questions.

Critics claim the list of athletes and players across 18 disci-

UNDER THE SCANNER

plines not only excludes some top athletes who stand a good chance of making the cut for the Los Angeles Games but curiously also includes several sportspersons unlikely to make the India contingent. The govt's assistance entails a sum of Rs 10 lakh a year for each of the 60 sportspersons.

One coach said: "Some of these sportspersons are in the list for the third straight time after 2021-22 and 22-23 despite not coming anywhere near the qualifying mark for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Some of the others are nearing the age of 30."

From track and field, the list names nine athletes but insiders believe only four are in the reckoning to make the long list. Notably absent is S Lokesh, the American college athletics' long jump champion. Six badminton players make the list, but U-15 Asian champion Shaina Manimuthu has been overlooked.

"I think she (Shaina) definitely deserves to be in the list. She's just 15 years old and the current under-19 national girls' champion. This is the age they need support," former national coach U Vimal Kumar told TOI.

Vimal also questioned the overlap with central schemes. "Players who are already receiving support under SAI's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) are adequately provided for in terms of training, competition exposure, and financial needs. In this context, it would be appropriate for the committee to review whether extending additional state support to such players is necessary, or whether those resources could be more effectively directed towards emerging players who are not yet part of TOPS."

However, DYES officials defended the list — pruned to 60 from the previous 75 — saying it was finalised based on inputs of an expert committee which included former India hockey captain Arjun Halappa, swimming coach Nihar Amin and former Asian Games medallist Uday K Prabhu.

Rising star Jonathan Gavin Antony is among seven shooters who will benefit from the scheme as will rifle shooter Tilottama Sen and pistol ace Divya TS. However, omissions like Asian bronze medallist Meghana Sajjanar and multiple national medallist Shravan Shashidhar have raised eyebrows.

Critics also questioned the decision to provide support for players from team events like basketball and hockey. "If you are a top player, then you will be part of the national camp where everything is taken care of," they said. Others wondered why disciplines like cycling, canoeing, fencing, gymnastics, kayaking, skiing and sport climbing where even the country's top performers have struggled to make an impact on the world level have been included.

"If this scheme is to help athletes who are trying to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympics, then DYES should take a hard look at the list and support those who have a realistic chance," a coach said.

Sportspersons picked

Athletics: Daneshwari AT, Krishik M, Manikanta H, Nihal Joel, Pavana Nagaraj, Priya Mohan, Shashank Patil, Sinchal Kaveramma, Unnathi Aiyappa **Badminton:** Ayush Shetty, Lakshya Rajesh, Mithun Manjunath, Rujula Ramu, Sai Pratheek, Tushar Veer **Basketball:** Bhandavya HM, Manoj BM, Sanjana Ramesh **Cycling:** Charith Gowda, Nanda Chanamallappa Chinchkandi, Star Narzary **Equestrian:** Fouaad Mirza **Fencing:** S Tanvi **Golf:** Aditi Ashok, Pranavi S Urs **Gymnastics:** Chinmai Gowda **Hockey:** Mohammed Raheel Mouseen, Mohith HS, Poovanna CB, Sunil PB **Kayaking & Canoeing:** Pranjala, Samara Chacko **Shooting:** Anushka Thokur, Divya TS, Gamberya Gowda, Hrudya Shri, **Jonathan Gavin Antony**, Naren Pranav Vanitha Suresh, Tilottama Sen **Skiing:** Bhavani Thekkeda Nanjunda **Sport Climbing:** Bharath Stephen Pereira Kamath **Swimming:** Akash Mani, Aneesh Gowda, Dakshan S, Dhinidhi Desingu, Srihari Nataraj, Thanya S, Vidith Shankar **Table Tennis:** Yashaswini Ghorpade **Tennis:** NK Poonacha, Prajwal Dev **Weightlifting:** Usha BN **Wrestling:** Bapusaheb Shindhe, Shweta Sanju Annikeri **Para sports: Athletics**: Radha V, Rakshitha R, Sharath MS; Shooting: Rakesh N Nidagundi, Vaishnavi R; **Swimming:** Yojit Nallana

Ayush marches into semis

Downs World No. 4 Christie To Set Up Vitidsarn Meeting

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AFP

GIANT-KILLER: Ayush Shetty in action against Jonatan Christie during their quarterfinal match

The giant-killing Ayush Shetty has assured himself of a men's singles medal at the Badminton Asia Championships in Ningbo, China on Friday.

This comes eight years after HS Prannoy's bronze, when the 20-year-old ousted world No.4 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia 23-21, 21-17 to enter the semifinals.

This is Ayush's biggest scalp after his win over Asiad gold medallist Li Shi Feng in the first round. That the six-foot-four shuttler from Mangalore is yet to lose a game this week is indicative of his excellent form.

ASIA C'SHIPS

Interestingly, Irwansyah Adi Pratama, Ayush's Indonesian coach, was guiding Christie till a few months back. Though a little sluggish in the first game, Ayush looked like he had come armed with a plan to tackle the former world No.2. Facing the experienced Christie for the first time, Ayush fought from 8-11, 11-14, 13-16 and saved two game points at 18-20.

When it looked like Christie would run away with the first game, Ayush produced a jump smash to save the first game point. An excellent drop on the left corner pushed the game to extra points. At 21-21, a rattled Christie made two unforced errors — hit one into the net and the next wide — much to the delight of Ayush.

The Indian was at his aggressive best in the second. He broke free from 9-9 with a four-point burst. He then led 17-13. Executing several powerful smashes with ease, Ayush rattled Christie. Though the Indonesian reduced the gap to 17-18, Ayush scored three straight points to close him out.

Ayush played a calculated game, maintained a good length and hit deep to disturb the footwork of his opponent. In the semifinals, Ayush will face defending champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand. The 2023 world champion defeated Weng Hong Yang of China 20-22, 21-9, 21-9. The Paris Olympics silver medallist had defeated Ayush at the Arctic Open last year.

China's Shi Yu Qi and Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen also reached the semifinals. While Yu Qi defeated Kodai Naraoka of Japan 21-18, 21-18, Chou beat Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 16-21, 21-12, 21-17.

CWG 2030 to feature 17 sports: Rukare

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Jatin Kumar

Donald Rukare (R) & PT Usha

New Delhi: The 2030 Commonwealth Games in India will feature around 17 sporting disciplines, according to Commonwealth Sport president Donald Rukare. Speaking here on Friday, Rukare said the final roster of events will be confirmed by mid-2027. "We should soon be able to announce a full board of about 16 to 17 sport programmes that will feature here in 2030. By the end of the first half of 2027, we should be able to give you a definite answer in terms of sports and where we start. And this will carry forward

IN FOCUS

even for future CWGs," Rukare told a media gathering.

The highlight is the possible inclusion of disciplines excluded in previous editions but hold strong emotional value for India. For Ahmedabad, the organisers have been aiming to feature a full roster which were axed from the Birmingham 2022 and won't feature in the Glasgow edition later this year. In 2022, shooting and archery were dropped, while nine key sports including badminton, cricket, hockey, shooting, squash, table tennis and wrestling, among others have been dropped for Glasgow.

Among the disciplines likely to make the cut are men's and women's cricket in T20 format and hockey — two of the three "core team sports" under consideration — reflecting their popularity and commercial viability. Yogasana is also being pitched as a medal event in the traditional sports category.

"The capacity to host a wide range of sports in India is evident. Once we have finished all the necessary consultations with the IOA, international federations and with the host organisers and, looking at what's available, we are going to have a very vibrant, responsive programme that caters not only for what is a very important constituency here in India, but for our 74 territories," said Rukare.

Villa on verge of semifinals

Aston Villa have one foot in the Europa League semifinals after Thursday's hard-fought 3-1 win at Bologna, which could have had a very different complexion had it not been for the clinical **Ollie Watkins**.

Ezri Konsa's header on the stroke of half-time and a brace from Watkins, who is playing for a place in England's World Cup squad, kept Villa on course for a first major trophy since winning the League Cup 30 years ago.

Villa will face either Porto or Nottingham Forest in the last four should they see off Bo-

FOOTBALL

logna, who are still just about in the tie thanks to Jonathan Rowe's fine late strike, in next week's second leg in Birmingham. Bologna have won their last seven matches away from home in all competitions but Unai Emery has won the Europa League four times.

Results (Quarters, first leg): Europa League: Bologna 1 (Rowe 90) bt Aston Villa 3 (Konsa 44, Watkins 51, 90+4); Porto 1 (William 11) drew with Nottingham Forest 1 (Martim Fernandes 13-og); Freiburg 3 (Grifo 10, Beste 32, Ginter 78) bt Celta Vigo (ESP) 0. **Conference League:** Rayo Vallecano 3 (Akhomach 2, Unai Lopez 45+2, Palazon 74-pen) bt AEK Athens 0; Shakhtar Donetsk 3 (Pedrinho 72, Alisson Santana 81, 83) bt AZ Alkmaar (NED) 0; Crystal Palace 3 (Mateta 24-pen, Mitchell 31, Sarr 90) bt Fiorentina (ITA) 0; Mainz 2 (Sano 11, Posch 19) bt Strasbourg (FRA) 0. AFP

Sinner sets up Zverev semis

AFP

ECSTATIC: Alexander Zverev

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz and his closest rival Jannik Sinner both cruised into the semifinals of the Monte Carlo Masters with straight-sets wins on Friday.

Sinner extended his winning run at Masters 1000 events to 20 matches as he brushed aside Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 6-4 in one hour 32 minutes. Alcaraz was next on the centre court and extended his clay-court run of victories to 16 as he crushed

TENNIS

Alexander Bublik 6-3, 6-0 in one hour three minutes.

The top two had both suffered second-set blips the day before when Sinner, who said later his energy level was not right had his record streak of 36 consecutive sets won in Masters tournaments snapped by Tomas Machac in the last 16.

"I feel like it was a step forward today," said the Italian after beating Canadian Auger-Aliassime. "It was a very tough match. I knew I had to get better in certain areas. The serve is not there yet, where I would love it (to be), but all things considered I'm very happy."

Sinner has never won one of the elite clay tournaments but will be a strong favourite when he plays Alexander Zverev after winning their last seven meetings.

Alcaraz, playing Bublik for the first time, broke in the opening game and had four break point in the third game but could not take any.

Bublik broke back in the fourth game and led 3-2, but Alcaraz won the next 10 games as he raced to victory.

"I started the match pretty well," Alcaraz said. "I was playing aggressively and I played a great and solid match against a player that you don't know what they will produce next."

World number three Zverev sealed a battling 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3 victory over Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca to reach the semifinals in Monaco for the third time.

The German could complete a career sweep of the clay-court Masters 1000 events. He has won the Italian Open and Madrid Open twice each. **Results (Quarterfinals):** 3-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Joao Fonseca (Bra) 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3; 2-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt 6-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-3, 6-4; 1-Carlos Alcaraz (Esp) bt 8-Alexander Bublik (Kaz) 6-3, 6-0. AFP

BFC, Blasters in high-stakes Derby

Kanteerava Set For Super Saturday As Munoz Debuts & Westwood Returns

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Chethan Shivakumar

JOVIAL MOOD: BFC coach Pep Munoz (right) with Sunil Chhetri

Bengaluru: The Sree Kanteerava Stadium is set to witness an IPL-like buzz on Saturday evening as arch-rivals Bengaluru FC and Kerala Blasters clash in an Indian Super League encounter, with tickets sold out weeks in advance and a packed house expected.

ISL

It will also mark a first for the rival coaches. Spaniard Pep Munoz heads into the clash having taken charge of Bengaluru FC only a few days ago, while the club's inaugural coach, Englishman Ashley Westwood, returns to his former home turf as in charge of Kerala Blasters, who arrive with just one point from seven matches. The wide gulf in standings notwithstanding, Munoz and former skipper Sunil Chhetri said they will not be taking the Manjapada (Yellow Army) team lightly.

"It's the best way to start with a big game, a kind of derby, at home. But we have to show our potential and win the three points. I know it's going to be a full house with a lot of away supporters. I've been with the team for 3-4 days, but the guys are doing a fantastic job and are ready with some good preparation," Munoz said.

Chhetri too wasn't ready to write off the Blasters, who are 13th among 14 teams. "The previous results don't matter. We saw their videos and the coach told us how we should plan ourselves. They won't be held back by the number of points they have. They just want to make sure that they want to kill us. So it's just about the day's match," Chhetri said.

"The home advantage only matters if you start well. Plus, they have Ashley, who knows us. We did fairly well in the way we started the last couple of matches and we want to do the same thing again," the stalwart added.

The talismanic striker also said he will continue as long as the team needs him. "As long as I can contribute, I'm here. The day I'm not, I'm gone. The day this club doesn't need me as a player, I will go and join them as a fan," said Chhetri, adding that the immediate focus for him was to play 90 minutes and not get substituted after 80 minutes.

With Munoz having almost a full squad at his disposal, it sets up another intriguing contest for Bengaluru FC. The passionate home support could once again light up the venue with their now-iconic flashlight wave set for a return.

Joshi ends title drought

CHAMPION: Khalin Joshi

Visakhapatnam: Khalin Joshi fired a two-under 69 to win theAndhra Open Golf Championship on Friday, sealing his seventh professional title in dominant fashion here on Friday. The 33-year-old Bengaluru pro returned rounds of 68-68-70-69 to finish at nine-under 275, four shots clear of the field. The victory earned him Rs 15 lakh and propelled him sharply up the 2026 DP World PGTI Order of Merit.

Joshi climbed from 55th to 12th on the Order of Merit, taking his season earnings to Rs 18,13,875. Chandigarh's Akshay

PGTI GOLF

Sharma (70-70-74-65) fired a course-record six-under 65 in the final round to surge from overnight 13th to finish runner-up at five-under 279 at East Point Golf Club. Joshi began the final round with a three-shot cushion at seven-under and closed with a two-under 69, mixing five birdies with three bogeys, to secure the title, his first in over 44 months. His previous victory came in Coimbatore in Aug 2022.

An early bogey on the third was a setback for Joshi, but he responded immediately with a birdie on the fourth after a quality approach from 80 yards to 10 feet. He added another birdie on the eighth from just over the green and produced a crucial up-and-down on the 12th to stay in control.

Despite a couple of bogeys on the back nine, Joshi regained momentum with a birdie on the 15th that steadied his round.

"I was a bit nervous out there, especially on the back nine, but I stayed patient and trusted my process. I didn't get off to the start I wanted, but I stayed committed to my approach and managed to recover well," said Joshi after winning the title.

Saptak Talwar (70-74-68-68) finished tied third at four-under 280 alongside Dubai-based Yash Majmudar (71-69-69-71). PTI

Clark surges ahead, Scheffler struggles

AP

ON COURSE: Wyndham Clark

Augusta: Wyndham Clark carded a polished second-round 68 at the Masters on Friday to sit one shot behind overnight co-leaders Rory McIlroy and Sam Burns, and Scottie Scheffler struggled on the front

AUGUSTA MASTERS

nine as veteran Justin Rose gained momentum around the turn.

Clark drilled home three consecutive early birdies before a bogey on the challenging par-4 10th appeared to stall the American former US Open champion's momentum.

He got it back with birdies at the 15th and 16th holes, however, to sit one behind the leaders as he bids to add a second major title to his resume. World number one Scheffler, who has typically responded superbly to bogeys throughout his career, missed a short putt on the par-4 fifth to card a second straight bogey.

He saved par on six and seven before narrowly missing an eagle putt on the par-5 8th - a hole the two-time Masters champion has feasted on in the past - but still captured his first birdie of the day.

Rose, the 45-year-old three-times Masters runner-up, grinded through his first five holes before earning his first birdie at the seventh.

The Englishman vented his frustration when he missed a birdie putt on the eighth, which seemed to energise him as he responded with birdies on nine and 10 to sit one behind McIlroy and Burns who were among the later starters. REUTERS

GARUDA LIFT 'B' DIV LEAGUE TITLE

Garuda Hockey Club emerged as the champion side with a commanding 13-1 win over Bangalore Friends Hockey Club in the KSHA 'B' division league in Bengaluru on Friday. Two goals each from Hari Haran, Anand, Magesh, and Sathya Guru helped Garuda to comfortably lift the cup.

CITY ROUND-UP

Results: Garuda HC 13 (Hari Haran 4, 8; Anand 12, 19; Naveen Kumar 14; Magesh 16, 35; Sethupandi 17; Suresh Babu 20; Dilli Babu 23; Sathya Guru 25, 27; Arvindrajan 29) bt Bangalore Friends HC 1 (Suresh 13); Ashco HC 3 (Naeem 13, 38; Chetan Chinappa 47) bt Ideal SA 2 (Vinish 7, Karthik 45). **Special awards: Best goalkeeper:** Sanjay (Ideal), **Defender:** Anand (Garuda), **Midfielder:** MB Aiyappa (Ashco), **Striker:** Suresh (Bangalore Friends). **Player of the tournament:** Ajay (Ideal).

Beagles down Appaiah, JSC: Beagles Basketball Club enjoyed an all-win outing on Friday, winning both their morning and evening upper pool super league matches at the State Women's League basketball tournament in Bengaluru. At the Sree Kanteerava Stadium courts, Beagles clinched a 71-55 win over Appaiah BC. Later, Beagles handed JSC a 52-48 defeat.

Results: Rajmahal BC 72 (Aadhya 33, Shreya 17) bt JSC 67 (Aadhya 27, Sanjana 25) HT: 33-39; Beagles BC 71 (Aadhya 15, Swathi 14) bt Appaiah BC 55 (Moulya 14, Aarushi 14) HT: 33-19; Vivek's SC 52 (Pavithra 19, Hamsa 12) bt Vimanapura SC 47 (Shreya 16, Shwetha 13) HT: 23-26; DYES, Vidyanagar 47 (Deepika 22, Nireeksha 11) bt Mounts Club 32 (Pallavi 13) HT 27-22; Mysuru 'A' 82 (Sanika 27, Kusuma 16) bt Bangalore Vanguards 64 (Tisha 22, Prashitha 15) HT: 39-26; Young Orions 51 (Bindu 14, Abha 11) bt Rajmahal BC 28 (Aadya 22) HT: 32-20; Mysuru 'A' 71 (Kusuma 24, Sanika 12) bt Vimanapura 38 (Shreya 13) HT: 42-23; Beagles BC 52 (Chandana 16, Sanjana 14) bt JSC 48 (Adhya 24, Sanjana 11) HT: 25-22; Viveks SC 58 (Jayashree 20) bt Mounts BC 52 (Pallavi 21, Ananya 10) HT: 33-23; DYES Vidyanagar 77 (Deepika 21, Nireeksha 22) bt Bangalore Vanguards 64 (Prashitha 30, Tisha 13) HT: 42-31. TNN

Rajaji Nagar battle into last four

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Rajaji Nagar held their nerve in the penalty shootout against Sarvagna Nagar to advance to the semifinals of the Chief Minister's Cup football tournament here on Friday. Earlier, the two teams were locked 2-2 after the regulation time.

CM'S CUP

Sunil Kumar found the net to put Sarvagna Nagar ahead in the fourth minute, but they couldn't hold on to the lead for long as Kavi Arasan equalised in the 16th minute.

After Deepan netted in the 24th minute to give the lead to Rajaji Nagar, Praveen Amith's late goal levelled the score in the 76th minute taking the match to penalties.

In the other quarterfinal, Shanthi Nagar routed Shivaji Nagar 6-0 to confirm their berth in the semifinals. After a goalless first half, Magesh S gave Shanthi Nagar the lead. Shanthi Nagar kept their goal-scoring momentum going as they ended up scoring five goals in the last 20 minutes.

Results: Shanthi Nagar 6 (Magesh S 53, Roshan Singh 70, G John Peter 80, J Darshan 83, Sanjay S 85, Shelton Paul D 87) bt Shivaji Nagar 0; Rajaji Nagar 2 (Kavi Arasan 16, Deepan A 24) bt Sarvagna Nagar 2 (Sunil Kumar M 4, Praveen Amith 76) 5-4 via penalties.

— Kaushal Kumar V

Karnataka held

Karnataka played out a 2-2 draw with Jharkhand in the U-13 Asmita National Football League in Punjab on Friday. Karnataka will next take on Assam on Sunday.

Results: Jharkhand 2 (Shivani Kumar 27, Alisha Munda 50+2) drew with Karnataka 2 (Subhathra 13, Rukshana 28). TNN

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IPL 2026

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
CSK vs DC
TV TIME 7:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

PLAYED 31
Won by CSK 19 (61.29%)
Won by DC 12 (38.71%)

LAST FIVE MATCHES
CSK L L L W L
DC L W W W L
VENUE: CHENNAI
ODDS
CSK 5/4 | DC 8/10

"YOU WANT TO MAKE EDEN GARDENS YOUR FORTRESS. IF YOU SEE HISTORY, WINNERS OF IPL BUILD UP IN THE MIDDLE AND BACK END. IT'S NOT EASY WHEN YOU DON'T START WELL, BUT OUR DESTINY IS STILL IN OUR HANDS. WE STILL HAVE 10 GAMES LEFT."
—Rovman Powell | KKR batter

SOORYA ECLIPSES RCB CHARGE

Teen Talent Scores 26-Ball 78, As Rajasthan Register Six-Wicket Victory

Guwahati: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi proved one can better the best by playing another astonishing innings —a 26-ball 78 with seven sixes —to set up an easy six-wicket victory for Rajasthan Royals against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL here on Friday.

While most 15-year-olds across the country were sweating over their 10th board exams results, this teenager from Bihar's Samastipur spent the evening hitting a 15-ball fifty as a victory target of 202 was achieved by Royals in just 18 overs.

Dhruv Jurel (81 not out off 43 balls), enjoying his best IPL season with the willow, played a number of graceful shots but when Sooryavanshi is on song, everyone else is compelled to become a bridesmaid or a bystander, getting a first-hand dosage of what brilliance looks like.

Sooryavanshi continued to put the reputation of world famous international bowlers at stake with his amazing bat speed and timing. The chubby cheeked teenager had toyed with Jasprit Bumrah's ego in an earlier game and Friday was comeback man Jos Hazlewood's turn to get butchered.

Hazlewood bowled a perfect delivery close to his body cramping Sooryavanshi for room. To his horror, he found the young boy just heavily chopping the delivery for a boundary.

The next two deliveries were boundaries over mid-on and then he fetched the Aussie's pace off delivery from outside the off-stump to dispatch into the square leg stands.

The best shot however was a snap hit -- where he just whipped a yorker length delivery from seamer Abhinandan Singh into the gallery — just a bit wide of long-on. Every shot that he hit left the crowd yearning for more. Who could have possibly imagined that he took only 15 balls to score 74 of his 78 runs in fours (8) and sixes (7).

A wily bowler like Bhuvneshwar Kumar was treated with utter disdain as he added a staggering 108 runs for the second wicket in just 6.1 overs with Jurel. Even Jurel feasted on below-par Abhinandan, who had gone for 24 in one of his overs.

Critics are always sceptical about "second season blues" when it comes to newcomers but Sooryavanshi, just like his cricketing philosophy, is out there to change the popular perceptions.

His first season as a 14-year-old was an exceptional one. His second season, so far, has been magnificent. Just when people were saying that a strike rate of 200 was the industry norm, Sooryavanshi upped the bar and took it to 300. He is not just on a mission to rewrite the record books, but to change perceptions and throw conventional wisdom out of the stadium — along with his orbit-touching sixes. Earlier, RCB skipper Rajat Patidar's 40-ball-63 and a cameo from Impact Sub Venkatesh Iyer took RCB to 201 for 8, even though they were 25 runs short of what should have been a par score.

But once teenager Sooryavanshi started hitting, it seemed like the total was 50 below par score. PTI

Pix: IANS, AFP

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hits a boundary. (Below) Dhruv Jurel

SCOREBOARD

RCB: P Salt c Jurel b Archer 0, V Kohli b Bishnoi 32, D Padikkal c Hetmyer b Archer 14, R Patidar c Ferreira b Sandeep 63, K Pandya c Hetmyer b Bishnoi 1, J Sharma lbw b Brijesh 5, T David c Hetmyer b Brijesh 13, R Shepherd c Brijesh b Jadeja 22,V Iyer not out 29, B Kumar not out 9; **Extras: (b4, lb2, w7) 13; Total: (8 wkts, 20 ovrs) 201; FoW:** 1-0, 2-45, 3-58, 4-62, 5-76, 6-94, 7-125, 8-166; **Bowling:** Archer 3-0-33-2, Burger 3-0-32-0, Sandeep 4-0-47-1, Bishnoi 4-0-32-2, Jadeja 2-0-14-1, Brijesh 4-0-37-2.

Rajasthan Royals: Y Jaiswal c Jitesh b Hazlewood 13, V Sooryavanshi c Kohli b Pandya 78, D Jurel (not out) 81, S Hetmyer c Hazlewood b Pandya 0, R Parag c Pandya b Hazlewood 3, R Jadeja (not out) 24,
Extras: (LB-1, W-2) 3
Total: (4 wkts; 18 overs) 202.
FoW: 1-21, 2-129, 3-129, 4-134.
Bowling: Bhuvneshwar 4-0-37-0, Hazlewood 4-0-44-2, Abhinandan 3-0-54-0, Pandya 4-0-30-2, David 1-0-18-0, Shepherd 2-0-18-0.

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CSK rue missed opportunities

Rejected By Franchise, Ngidi & Rizvi Have Impressed For Opponents Delhi Capitals

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Chennai: These are tough times for Chennai Super Kings. Three losses in a row have left them in a difficult situation and as they take on high-flyers Delhi Capitals at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Saturday, they may be looking at their rivals with a degree of envy. DC have been on a high, winning two of three and coming excruciatingly close in the third game, and their success has been largely built around two CSK rejects in Lungi Ngidi and Sameer Rizvi.

CSK bought Ngidi from the auction in 2018, when he was a virtually unknown quantity. He got 11 wickets that season, playing a significant role in CSK's title-winning run. But subsequently, he fell out of favour and was released by the franchise. Now, he's been picked up by DC for a modest sum of Rs 2 cr.

CSK, meanwhile, were desperate in their search for a pace bowler ahead of the auctions this season. But they overlooked Ngidi and went for bowlers like Matt Henry, Nathan Ellis and Zak Foulkes, who haven't exactly set the stage on fire.

With Ngidi bagging five wickets and going at an economy-rate of 7.29 so far, there's obviously an element of missed opportunity in the CSK ranks. Coach Stephen Fleming acknowledged that but argued that it is not always easy to gauge the trajectory of a player's performance months ahead of IPL. "If you ask me now whether we would like to have Ngidi in our squad, I would say yes. But then, that's true for many other players. And the careers of players go in different directions over the years," Fleming said.

Ngidi will have a big role to play on Saturday on a batting beauty at Chepauk, as will Rizvi, who was also bought by CSK for Rs 8.4 cr in 2024. But he failed in the eight games that he got for CSK, managing only 51 runs. After DC bought him last year for Rs 95 lakh, he has already scored 160 runs in three games this season at a strike-rate of 161.

LUNGI NGIDI

WEATHER
29°C

7 CSK have won seven successive matches against Delhi Capitals at the Chepauk between May 12, 2011 and May 10, 2023. Of the 10 games between the two teams at this venue, Delhi have won three — one each in 2008, 2010 and 2025.
—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Punjab start favourites against faltering Sunrisers

FACE-OFF
PBKS vs SRH
TV TIME: 3.30 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

PBKS	SRH
7	17

LAST FIVE MATCHES
PBKS NR W W L W
SRH L W L W W
ODDS
PBKS 7/10 | SRH 12/10

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Mullanpur: Abhishek Sharma wasn't in a rush at the pre-match training session on Friday. He strolled out, glanced around and exchanged a few easy words in Punjabi with the ground staff, the kind of small talk that only comes when a place feels like your own. A few yards away, Travis Head told a different story. There was nothing subdued about his session. The sound off his bat travelled, sharp and crisp. Head looked like he was rehearsing dominance. The 'Travishek' pair, after all, epitomise Sunrisers Hyderabad at their best — fluent and fearless.

The trouble is that those phases haven't lasted long enough this season. For all their firepower, Sunrisers have been curiously brittle at the top. Early wickets have disrupted momentum, leaving the middle order to patch things up more often than build on a platform. Heinrich Klaasen and Nitish Kumar Reddy have provided resistance but the team has struggled to string together complete performances. Even the bowling, expected to hold things together, has faltered. Harshal Patel and Jaydev Unadkat are yet to find consistency, with the latter coming off a tough outing against Lucknow.

Punjab Kings, in contrast, seem to be settling into a rhythm that feels more sustainable than spectacular. Under Shreyas Iyer, there's a sense of direction to their cricket. It's not always flashy, but it's effective.

Chasing down a 200-plus total against Chennai Super Kings or adapting to a tricky Mullanpur pitch against Gujarat Titans, Punjab have shown they can collectively adjust. That ethos was evident again in their last outing, even if rain robbed them of a result. Xavier Bartlett had ripped through Kolkata's top order before the skies intervened, leaving Punjab to share points.

Inside the Punjab dressing room, the messaging has been simple. Individual milestones aren't driving this side, results are. It's reflected in contributions coming from different corners.

Nitin Sharma

SRH'S Heinrich Klaasen at the nets on Friday

97/1 Rajasthan Royals recorded their highest Powerplay score, bettering the 89/1 vs Punjab Kings in Jaipur on May 18, 2025.

1 Phil Salt is the first to be dismissed off the first ball thrice in the IPL, all three for different teams.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
RR	4	4	0	0	2.055	8
PBKS	3	2	0	1	0.637	5
RCB	3	2	1	0	1.231	4
DC	3	2	1	0	0.811	4
LSG	3	2	1	0	-0.359	4
SRH	3	1	2	0	0.275	2
GT	3	1	2	0	-0.270	2
MI	3	1	2	0	-0.715	2
KKR	4	0	3	1	-1.315	1
CSK	3	0	3	0	-2.517	0

MUKUL MAGIC!

LSG'S NEW POWER HITTER KEEPS DATE WITH DESTINY

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Kolkata: Mukul Choudhary was destined to be a cricketer even before he was conceived. His father Dalip, himself a big cricket fan, had decided before his marriage that if he had a son, he would make him a cricketer. On Thursday, Mukul played the sort of knock which can propel an IPL cricketer to stardom in one night. In the process, he also fulfilled his father's long-cherished dreams.

Chasing 182 runs to win, Lucknow Super Giants were tottering at 128/7 in the 16th over. It was then that Mukul decided to stamp his presence on the big stage. "When Ayush bhai (Badoni) got out, I knew I was the one who had to do whatever needed to be done. I wanted to take the game close and wasn't thinking about winning or losing," he said.

The 21-year-old hit seven sixes on a wicket which the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) skipper Ajinkya Rahane described as "not easy" to "play big shots on". And Mukul was not used to playing under lights. "This is just my second match under lights," he confessed after his third IPL match.

But then, Mukul has been hitting those big ones every day for years now. "My body has a bit more natural power, but I practice hitting 100 to 150 sixes daily. It develops if you keep practising regularly. For the last five-six months specifically, I've been working a lot on it, so it's now developed," Mukul said. "I faced a similar situation in the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament, in which Rajasthan needed 25 off the last over and five off the last ball. Ayush bhai was bowling. This had happened to me before, so I had belief in myself today," he added, taking inspiration from his unbeaten 62 against Delhi this season. He also got 54 against Mumbai, batting at a strike rate of nearly 199 in the tournament after being the top-scorer in the CK Nayudu Trophy (U-23) with 617 runs.

'Inspired by Dhoni'

Born in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, the Choudhary family moved to Jaipur, where he joined the Aravalli Coaching Centre. It was here that young Mukul first wore the wicket-keeping gloves, moving away from his original ambition of being a bowler. His inspiration Mahendra Singh Dhoni, had incidentally sacrificed a goalkeeping role in school. "I bat at the same number. He inspired me early in my career," Mukul, who was named in the Rajasthan Ranji squad at 18 and made his T20 debut a year later, said of Dhoni.

Apart from his power-hitting ability, what stood out in Mukul's 27-ball unbeaten 54-run innings was the way he went about it in a calm and confident manner. "Rishabh Pant (LSG skipper) told me 'why are you thinking so much.

'I'll do this, I'll do that.' Don't think. Just follow the process you have been working on," Mukul said. "Even if someone is playing his 15th or 50th match, this situation will create pressure. I focus on the opportunity, not the pressure," he said.

LSG head coach Justin Langer must be smiling big. The Australian had foreseen this day after working on him daily for 10-20 minutes separately. "If he's (Mukul) willing, in the next four months, I'm going to turn him into the scariest No. 6 or No. 7 batter in India," he had stated before the season.

Mukul remembers Langer's words. "They showed faith in me, so it was on me to repay it," he said.

HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE EIGHTH WICKET OR LOWER IN IPL

Runs	Wkt	Overs	RR	Pair	For	Opp	Venue	Date
54*	8th	4.0	13.50	Mukul Chaudhary/Avesh Khan	LSG	KKR	Kolkata	9-4-2026
52*	8th	3.3	14.85	Rinku Singh/Umesh Yadav	KKR	GT	Ahmedabad	9-4-2023
46*	8th	3.5	12.00	Chris Morris/Jaydev Unadkat	RR	DC	Mumbai (WS)	15-4-2021
41	9th	2.3	16.40	Dwayne Bravo/Imran Tahir	CSK	MI	Mumbai (WS)	7-4-2018

"MY BODY HAS A BIT MORE NATURAL POWER, BUT I PRACTICE HITTING 100 TO 150 SIXES DAILY"
—Mukul Choudhary

BASKING IN GLORY: Mukul Choudhary (right) with his family

In interior Rajasthan, a father swells with pride

Mandakini.Shalya@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: Mukul Choudhary's father couldn't go to bed on Thursday night, and on Friday afternoon his voice was still crackling with energy. "I didn't sleep the entire night. All I've done is attend congratulatory calls. Mukul has played such innings in the domestic games as well, so I'm aware of his capabilities. He played similar knocks this season in Mushtaq Ali Trophy against Delhi and Mumbai also," Dalip Choudhary told **TOI** from Gudha Gorji, a small town in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

Dalip's drive was fuelled by the ghost of his own unfulfilled talent. "I wanted to play cricket, but that could never happen given lack of financial resources," he said. In 2015, the family of four uprooted their lives and shifted to Sikar, a district 65 kms away, as Dalip chased his dream of making Mukul a cricketer.

"In Sikar, I enrolled my son in the SBS Cricket Academy, where he trained for four years. We faced a real financial crunch, so in 2017, I sold my small house, which we had built just a few years earlier. It fetched me Rs 21.11 lakh. I also took bank loans and borrowed from relatives and friends, which eventually pushed my debt to Rs 3 cr," Dalip said.

It was at SBS Academy that the right-handed player transformed from a medium-pacer to a wicket-keeper-batter. During an academy match, the team desperately needed a 'keeper and Mukul was asked to step in. As a devoted MS Dhoni fan, the young boy had no problem switching roles for good.

By 2020, after Mukul had already represented Rajasthan at the U-19 and U-23 levels. His father realised it was time to move to a bigger city. "We moved to Jaipur. He now trains at the Aravali Cricket Academy. He has always stayed with the family. His mother and younger sister live with him in Jaipur and I visit them frequently," Dalip, who now manages a hotel and property business, said.

"To give him more exposure, last year I took him to meet Yuvraj Singh's father Yograj, and Rohit Sharma's coach Dinesh Lad. After seeing Mukul bat, Yograj sir told me that my son will play for India," the father said with pride.

'Don't rush Sooryavanshi's India debut'

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Mumbai: Bihar's 'boy wonder' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has lit up IPL-2026 with his fearless strokeplay for Rajasthan Royals. However, leg-spin great Anil Kumble believes the though the 15-year-old is firmly on the radar of selectors, he should not be rushed into the team so early on in his career. Kumble, a former India captain and head coach, compared the excitement around Vaibhav to the early days of Sachin Tendulkar, noting that both showed extraordinary promise as teenagers.

However, Kumble said every player's journey is unique and that placing expectations too early could burden the youngster. Kumble said he had little doubt that Sooryavanshi would represent India "sooner rather than later".

PTI

PRAGMATIC: Anil Kumble

"Sachin Tendulkar, every time he walked out as a 14- or 15-year-old, he was scoring hundreds. From what we've seen, Vaibhav is certainly doing all the right things. But at this point, it's a lot of pressure on a young lad to say, 'we want you to play for India in two months' time.' It may happen, it may not but he has time on his side. Even 10 years later, he'll only be 25, and that's the best part about someone doing so well at 15," Kumble said at a Barclays event at the Cricket Club of India on Friday.

Kumble added that Sooryavanshi could make his India debut "this year, next year, or a couple of years later" and that selectors will be monitoring him closely.

"I'm sure there will be a time when he will play for India. Whether it's fast-tracked or not, every player has his own journey. Some start at 15, some at 28 but they all have a role to play. For Vaibhav, it could be this year, next year or a couple of years later. But the way he is batting, he will certainly be someone the selectors will be watching closely," Kumble said. Sooryavanshi was also recently in the news for skipping his Class X board exams to prepare for the IPL. Kumble acknowledged the challenge of balancing academics with elite-level sport for prodigious talents.

"That is the biggest challenge. If a 15-year-old is smashing every bowler in the world, it's very difficult to ask him to go to university and study before selecting him. That's the reality," the former Indian captain said.

Kumble also said that inter-university and inter-school cricket may no longer be relevant pathways. "I didn't play for a university, though I was part of the system. Inter-university cricket was once significant but I don't see it returning," he added.

India have it easy

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New Delhi: India stayed alive in the Billie Jean King (BJK) Cup Asia/Oceania Group I with 3-0 victory over Mongolia but their hopes of reaching the World Group playoffs remain precariously balanced heading into the final day.

The hosts delivered a clinical performance on Friday, overcoming a listless Mongolian side without conceding momentum at any stage. However, despite the emphatic win, India's fate is no longer entirely in their own hands. A must-win tie against South Korea on Saturday — by a 3-0 margin — is essential to keep their qualification hopes alive. India's campaign has been defined by inconsistency. The unexpected opening loss to Thailand continues to haunt the team, especially after they bounced back impressively with a 3-0 sweep of New Zealand. However, a subsequent 0-3 defeat to Indonesia dealt a major blow.

BJK CUP

Anushka Kegta

DOMINANT: Sahaja Yamalapalli beat Jargal Altansarnai 6-0, 6-0

VISHVANATH TRIUMPHS AS INDIA FINISH WITH FIVE GOLD MEDALS

Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia): India capped off a memorable Asian Boxing Championships campaign with **Vishvanath Suresh** clinching the medal gold in the men's 50kg category here on Friday. Vishvanath defeated Japan's Daichi Iwai by a dominant 5-0 margin in the final. Sachin (60kg) added to the tally with a hard-fought silver medal, rounding off a strong showing for the men's contingent.

India finished second on the table with five gold, one fewer than Kazakhstan, but claimed the most medals (16) overall.

The performance was headlined by a historic outing from the Indian women's team, which topped the medal charts with 10 podium finishes, including four gold, two silver and four bronze, marking one of their finest showings at the continental level.

Vishvanath's gold marks a significant milestone in his rapid rise through the ranks. Having emerged through the national circuit with consistent performances, he has quickly established himself on the international stage.

Among the standout performers in women's team, Minakshi Hooda (48kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Priya Ghanghas (60kg), and Arundhati Chaudhary (70kg) delivered gold medal-winning performances, showcasing dominance across categories. PTI

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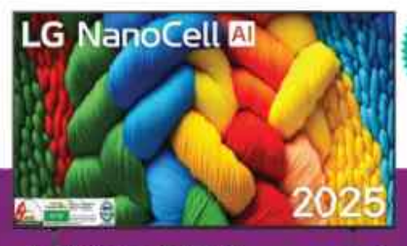

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INDIA CAPS OFF A MEMORABLE CAMPAIGN AT ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH VISHVANATH SURESH CLINCHING GOLD IN THE MEN'S 50KG CATEGORY 19

2cr (13.2%) voters deleted, 13.4cr on UP's final poll roll

No. Dropped Almost Equals Lanka's Popn

Arvind.Chauhan
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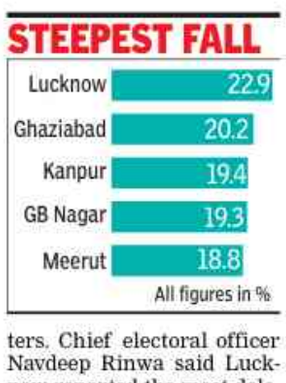
Lucknow: A chunk of the UP electorate nearly the size of Sri Lanka's population of 2.2 crore was removed from the voter rolls during the 166-day special intensive revision (SIR) that came to a close Friday with the Election Commission publishing the final list of 13.39 crore voters.

While a little over two crore names were deleted following hearings, the collated total represents an increase of 84 lakh over the draft rolls published on Jan 6, which had pegged the state's electoral strength at 12.55 crore voters. Chief electoral officer Navdeep Rinwa said Lucknow reported the most deletions among districts — over 9.1 lakh, constituting around 22.9% of its pre-SIR electorate. Ghaziabad was a close second, with 20.2% failing to make the cut. Prayagraj's electorate shrunk by 8.2 lakh (17.6%) and Kanpur lost 6.8 lakh voters (19.4%).

▶No name deleted, P 10

STEEPEST FALL



Highest-ever women turnout in Kerala, Assam and Puducherry

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Women aced voter turnout across Assam, Kerala and Puducherry on Thursday, not only recording their highest-ever polling percentage but also surpassing the male voter turnout in all three states/Union territory.

A whopping 91.4% of the female electorate in Puducherry, 86.5% in Assam and 81.2% in Kerala voted. In comparison, the male voter turnout was 88.1% in Puducherry, 85.3% in Assam and 75.1% in Kerala.

▶Women's participation, P8

BJP promises UCC in Bengal, dole for women & unemployed

RohitKhanna@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: BJP will introduce a uniform civil code in Bengal within six months if it is voted into govt, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

A BJP govt would provide a monthly assistance of Rs 3,000 to women and unemployed youth and a one-time grant of Rs 9,000 to farmers. Women will have 33% govt jobs reserved for them, Shah said.

"The gaps we see in Bengal must be bridged; it's impossible to lift people out of poverty without assistance."

▶Party vows to end, P 10

Missing Kerala girl found dead near Chikkamagaluru waterfall

Ranjith Kandya | TNN

Chikkamagaluru: The teenage girl from Kerala, who was reported missing from the Chandradrona Hills here since Tuesday, was found dead near a waterfall at Manikyadhara Hills Friday.

Rescuers rushed to the spot after her body was traced by a drone fitted with a thermal camera. The body was found lying nearly 1,000 feet deep down in a gorge from the Manikyadhara viewpoint.

Police said she could have slipped and fallen into the waterfall. But her parents and relatives claimed she might have been kidnapped and drugged by unknown persons.

Rohini, the mother, collapsed upon seeing the image of her daughter's lifeless body on a phone screen. Suspecting foul play, Rohini later said: "I want my daughter back and I don't believe she slipped from the hill. Someone had kidnapped and drugged her before she went missing."

SP Jitendra Kumar Dayama said that Srinandhana's clothes were intact, adding that the cause of death will be known only after the post mortem. He cautioned against drawing any premature conclusions.

▶Noticed girl missing, P 4

KIN ALLEGE 'KIDNAP'

- Drone fitted with a thermal camera **spots the girl's body 1,000 feet deep down** in a gorge in Chikkamagaluru
- The girl, a class 10 student, **was part of a 40-member trekking team**, including family members
- Police say she could have slipped and fallen; **but her family alleges kidnap**

Locked up for Viksit event, claim Delhi students

New Delhi: Several students of Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, have alleged they were locked up inside the campus for over an hour and prevented from leaving, forcing them to attend a programme by the administration on the Centre's flagship 'Viksit Bharat' initiative on April 8, **reports Sugandha Jha.** They alleged that while the event was on at the college auditorium, security personnel shut the main gate, redirecting those trying to leave to the event venue.

▶'Gates opened', P 12

Varma's resignation may open graft-probe window

Investigation Wasn't Possible Earlier Due To HC Judge's Immunity

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
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New Delhi: Friday's resignation saves Justice Yashwant Varma from the ignominy of defending himself in Parliament in a debate on the motion to remove him as a judge. However, it might open a window for the authorities to order an investigation into the source of the money found in a judge's official residence in a high-security zone in the national capital.

The investigation, which could not have been launched earlier because of the immunity he enjoyed as a high court judge, could potentially land him on the wrong side of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Last week, his lawyers had dismissed as "rumour" widespread speculation about Justice Varma planning to resign. There are indications that the consistency of eyewitness accounts on questioning by Justice Varma's lawyers during the hearings of the committee may have impressed upon the high court judge the futility of trying to hang on.

The Delhi police commissioner had, on March 14-15, informed the Chief Justice of Delhi high court, Justice D K Upadhyay, about the sensational recovery by the fire and police personnel at the bungalow of Justice Varma in response to a call from the judge's daughter about a fire.

The incident has revived calls for a fresh look at the SC collegium's monopoly over the appointment of judges to the apex court and HC

Justice D K Upadhyaya immediately looped in the then Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, setting in motion fast-paced events that intensified debate about alleged corruption in the judiciary and revived calls for a fresh look at the SC collegium's monopoly over the appointment of judges to the high court and the apex court. On March 20, the CJI-headed SC collegium considered transferring Justice Varma back to the Allahabad HC and stripped him of judicial work. Simultaneously, the CJI had sought a report from the Delhi HC CJ.

After receiving the report from the HC CJ, the SC collegium recommended his transfer. **TOI** was the first to report about the incident and transfer of Justice Varma on March 22 last year.

The controversy snowballed after then CJI Khanna constituted an inquiry committee comprising Punjab and Haryana CJ Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh CJ G S Sandhawalia and Karnataka HC's Justice Anu Sivaraman. After an elaborate and lengthy inquiry, the committee, in its May 3 report, corroborated the discovery of huge cash at Justice Varma's residence and its mysterious disappearance.

CJI Khanna had sent the report to Justice Varma and suggested he resign. When he refused, the CJI sent the report to the President and PM and advised govt to initiate a motion in Parliament for Justice Varma's removal.

Following the filing of a removal motion against Justice Varma in Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla had, on Aug 12, constituted a three-member committee headed by SC's Justice Aravind Kumar and comprising Madras HC CJ M M Srivastava and senior advocate B V Acharya to inquire into the charges against Justice Varma.

Justice Srivastava, who retired on March 5, was replaced by Bombay high court CJ Shree Chandrashekhar.

The Lok Sabha office had completed the process of adducing evidence, mainly based on the evidence gathered by the in-house inquiry committee, against Justice Varma and was at an advanced stage of concluding the proceedings.

'Mahatma Gandhi mein aag lag rahi hai bhai'

New Delhi: "Mahatma Gandhi mein aag lag rahi hai bhai" (Mahatma Gandhi is catching fire) — the frantic exclamation of a fireman, captured on video, became the focal point of a probe into the fire that broke out at the official bungalow of Justice Yashwant Varma in the capital last year, reports **Rajshekhar Jha**.

It was around 11.35pm on March 14 that police and fire personnel had rushed to 30 Tughlak Crescent (Varma's residence) in central Delhi.

Two fire tenders were sent to the spot, and these, along with police personnel, doused the flames in a storeroom within 15 minutes. It was supposed to be the end of an emergency response, but as first responders walked through a thin veil of smoke, they were left startled — lying in the storeroom, among other things, were wads of partially burnt high-denomination Indian currency notes.

The remark caught on video — a direct reference to the image of Gandhi on burnt Rs 500 notes — turned what was just an emergency call into a scandal that reached the highest levels of the judiciary, besides putting on a young officer — who swiftly sensed the gravity of what his men had chanced upon and alerted his seniors — the label of a "whistleblower" just because of the presence of mind he showed.

By March 15 noon, as Justice Varma was returning to the capital, cutting short his trip to the Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, Delhi police commissioner Sanjay Arora was already briefing Delhi high court Chief Justice DK Upadhaya about the incident.

A formal report, backed by incriminating WhatsApp videos of the cash-filled debris, had been sent to the Union home ministry.

Varma goes down protesting: 'Asked to answer the answerable'

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New Delhi: Justice Yashwant Varma of Allahabad high court may have submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu on Friday, but he went down crying foul.

In a letter simultaneously addressed to Supreme Court Justice Aravind Kumar, who is head of the judges' inquiry committee, the controversial HC judge faulted the committee's procedure to test veracity of the charges related to the discovery of a huge amount unaccounted burnt cash from his official residence.

Questioning the committee's decision to proceed without any cogent evidence against him, Justice Varma said that such a procedure has left him with no option but to withdraw, as his further participation would legitimise a process that "calls upon me to answer the unanswerable — where did the money come from".

"I have, in parallel, addressed a communication to Her Excellency, the Hon'ble President of India," he said.

Videos recorded by first responders — firemen and police — of the fire incident at his residence in central Delhi on March 14-15 night last year, and later uploaded on the Supreme Court website, proved the undoing of Justice Varma.

If their evidence before the committee was damning, it got sharper during their cross-examination by Justice Varma's lawyers, as they graphically narrated the discovery of cash and conduct of the people present in the judge's house on that night.

Justice Varma was considered very close to Justice D Y Chandrachud, who had a two-year tenure as CJI from Nov 2022 till Nov 2024.

Videos recorded by first responders — firemen and police — of the fire incident at his residence in central Delhi on March 14-15 night last year, and later uploaded on the SC website, proved the undoing of Justice Varma

An SC bench headed by him had, in March 2024, quashed a CBI FIR and an ECIR by the Enforcement Directorate against Justice Varma, who as a lawyer and prior to appointment as an HC judge, had figured in it as a non-executive director of Simbhaoli Sugar Ltd in an alleged bank loan fraud case.

One of his main grouses was that the committee had shifted the onus of proving innocence on him based on evidence gathered by the inquiry committee constituted by then CJI Sanjiv Khanna. The inquiry report could not have served as evidence or relevant for any future proceedings, he said.

His decision to challenge the inquiry proceedings, its report and the recommendation of then CJI Khanna for the initiation of removal motion was dismissed by an SC bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih on Aug 7 last year.

Justice Varma said the storeroom, from where the burnt cash was allegedly found and where video was recorded, was never seized by police. Moreover, since the room was accessible to all, it cannot be the judge's responsibility to keep track of who keeps what in the sprawling premises of an official bungalow that includes the residential quarters for house helps.

Justice Varma said he leaves it to posterity to judge "whether such an obligation can ever be discharged or be justifiably placed upon occupants of such premises". He said the allegations and innuendos levelled against him lacked any basis or evidence.

Asserting that there had not been any cogent evidence to back the charges against him, Justice Varma said in a process unknown to the law of criminal trial. "The burden of proof has been effectively reversed without any foundational case being made out."

"I am profoundly disappointed that, despite the solemn nature of these proceedings, which carry the potential consequence of removing a sitting high court judge from constitutional office, the Commission (Committee) did not intervene despite the shocking manner in which proceedings unfolded," Justice Varma said.

Justice Varma saves himself from ignoble 1st

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With his resignation on Friday, former Allahabad high court judge Justice Yashwant Varma saved himself from the embarrassment of being the first judge to be "removed" through a motion adopted in Parliament.

Lok Sabha had admitted the motion to initiate proceedings against him in Aug last year. The law for removal of a judge of a constitutional court requires a motion for removal to be endorsed by 100 MPs in Lok Sabha if it is to be adopted. The required number is 50 in the case of Rajya Sabha. Before Justice Varma, there have been five judges of constitutional courts against whom a removal motion was adopted in Parliament — the first was from Supreme Court, Justice V Ramaswami, in 1991.

However, he escaped "removal" as the motion failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in LS.

The Lok Sabha speaker had admitted a motion for Justice Varma's removal on Aug 12, 2025. A committee of inquiry was set up, whose legality was upheld by Supreme Court

In 2011, Justice Soumitra Sen of Calcutta high court was the first judge against whom Rajya Sabha had voted with the required majority on a removal motion.

But the judge resigned before the motion was voted on in Lok Sabha.

The same year, Justice PD Dinakaran, the then chief justice of Sikkim high court, resigned before removal proceedings were initiated against him in Rajya Sabha.

In 2015, a motion was moved in Rajya Sabha against Justice JB Pardiwala of Gujarat high court — who has since been elevated to Supreme Court.

However, the judge later removed a controversial statement from the judgment which had invited the action and escaped the proceedings. That same year, another motion for removal was moved in Rajya Sabha against Justice SK Gangele of Madhya Pradesh HC. However, an inquiry committee absolved the judge of sexual harassment charges.

In the case of Justice Varma, the Lok Sabha speaker had admitted a motion for his removal on Aug 12, 2025. A committee of inquiry was constituted, whose legality was upheld by SC.

Article 124(4) of the Constitution provides for removal of a judge of SC or HC only "by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament, supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting" on grounds of "proved misbehaviour or incapacity".

The Judges (Inquiry) Act guides the removal proceedings; it provides for a three-member committee, under Section 3(2) of the Act, comprising the chief justice of India or a judge of Supreme Court, a chief justice of a high court and a noted jurist to probe on the basis of evidence if the judge was indeed guilty of "misbehaviour or incapacity"